KaikaNeko Manga
When two of the best get together...

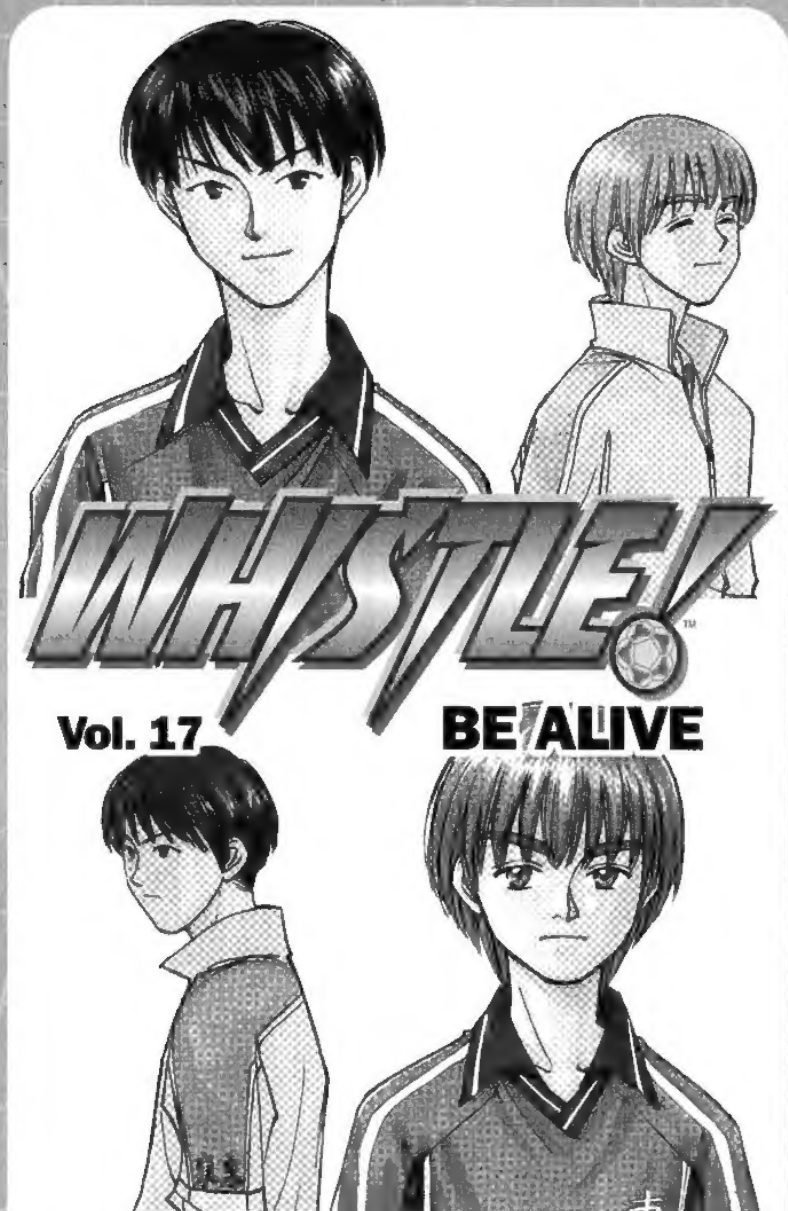
WHISTLE!™

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Daisuke Higuchi

volume 17


WHISTLE!
Vol. 17
BE ALIVE
Story and Art by Daisuke Higuchi

CHARACTERS

SHŌ KAZAMATSURI

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
- FORWARD

AKIRA SAIONJI

TSUBASA SHIINA

TATSUYA MIZUNO

- JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SOCCER TEAM
- MIDFIELDER

EISHI KAKU

ZŌSHIGAYAMINAMI JUNIOR HIGH

MIDFIELDER

KENTARŌ KODUTSU

YANAHARA JUNIOR HIGH

GOALKEEPER

RYOICHI TENJO

KOKUBU SECOND JUNIOR HIGH

FORWARD

STORY

TO REALIZE HIS DREAM, SHŌ KAZAMATSURI, A BENCHWARMER AT SOCCER POWERHOUSE MUSASHINOMORI, TRANSFERRED TO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SO HE COULD PLAY THE GAME HE LOVES.

DUE TO HIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE DURING A TOURNAMENT, SHŌ WAS INVITED TO TRY OUT FOR THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM. IN THE END, HE MADE THE TEAM--BARELY--AS A SUBSTITUTE.

BUT AFTER TAKING ON THE TEAM'S POWERFUL PLAYERS, SHŌ IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY--AND AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH MASAHIRO SUŌ OF THE J2 LEAGUE, SHŌ'S SKILL LEVEL CONTINUED TO CLIMB.

MEANWHILE, SHŌ GETS READY FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH RYOICHI, ANOTHER FORWARD WHO IS SUFFERING FROM SOME PERFORMANCE ISSUES...

STAGE.144 A Public Showdown

WHISTLE!

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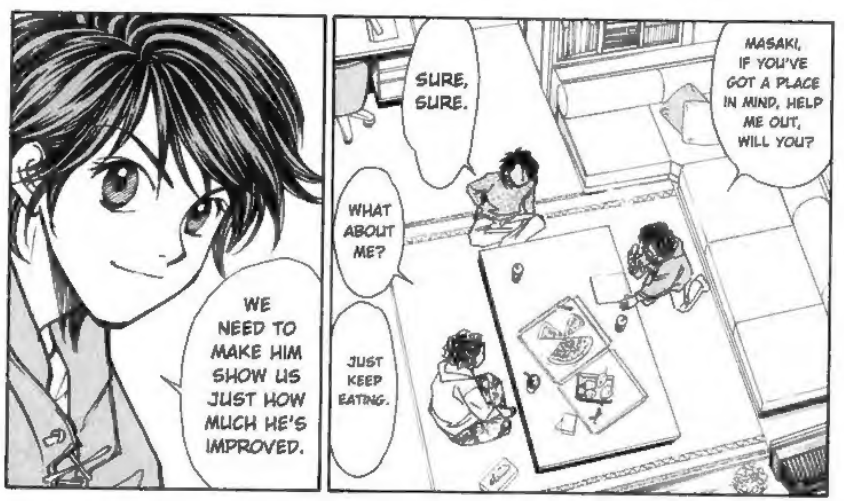
Saturday
Hiba Junior High
WHAT GIVES?
...
DOOM
TSUBASA TOLD US HE'D SHOW US SOMETHING ENTERTAINING IF WE CAME BY.
WHY ARE YOU ALL HERE?

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY, TSUBASA?
AND TELL THE OTHERS...
... OKAY.
YEAH, THIS SATURDAY. AT MY SCHOOL.

...BUT HE'S NOT GOOD AT SELLING THEM.
HE COMES UP WITH INTERESTING IDEAS WITHOUT EVEN TRYING...
YUP.
HE'S ENJOYING THIS.
ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL?
HEH HEH.
WE WERE JUST SUPPOSED TO HELP OUT.


WE NEED TO MAKE HIM SHOW US JUST HOW MUCH HE'S IMPROVED.
SURE, SURE.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
JUST KEEP EATING.
MASAKI, IF YOU'VE GOT A PLACE IN MIND, HELP ME OUT, WILL YOU?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
GRIN
I'LL DO IT!

LET'S PLAY SOCCER, RYOICHI!
SHŌ
...

THAT'S NOT IT. TSUBASA AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING TO BEAT UP SHŌ AND RYOICHI, AREN'T THEY?
WHAT? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE TO HAVE SOME FUN.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE ONE WHO LOSES WILL QUIT THE SELECT TEAM, I HEARD.
WHAT? WASN'T IT SHŌ WHO ASKED US TO COME?
ISN'T HE GOING TO SHOW US HOW HE'LL TAKE RYOICHI'S SPOT ON THE TEAM?

...ABOUT SOMETHING THIS ENTER-TAINING?
DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D KEEP QUIET...
TING
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR ASKING MY ADVICE.
TSU-BASA?
ZING

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO.
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
SLUMP

THE GOAL-KEEPER IS KATSURŌ.
A FORWARD WHO MAKES THE GOAL, AFTER GETTING PAST THREE DEFENDERS, WILL WIN THE GAME.
IF THE BALL IS SENT OUTSIDE THE LINE OR STOPPED BY THE GOAL-KEEPER, THE FORWARD LOSES.

...AND ROKU-SUKE.
THE DELUXE PACKAGE!
...TSU-BASA ...
DE-FENDERS ARE MA-SAKI...

I'LL EAT RAMEN NOODLES THROUGH MY NOSE.
SNORT
WHAT IF HE DOES SCORE?
HOW ARRO-GANT!
I CAN SEE HOW RYOICHI REQUIRES POWERFUL DEFENDERS TO STOP HIM.
BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET A GOAL OFF THESE GUYS WHEN YOU'RE A SEVERAL STEPS BELOW RYOICHI?

A GAME WITHOUT A WAGER?
EVEN IF I HAVE ONLY A ONE-IN-A-THOUSAND CHANCE TO WIN...
...I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ...
NOTHING ...
AND THE CONDITIONS?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, SHŌ?
I DON'T GET IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO...
...JUST LIKE HIM.
!

HE'S COMING!
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO SAY!
MY ATTACK IS...
RIGHT?
OR LEFT?

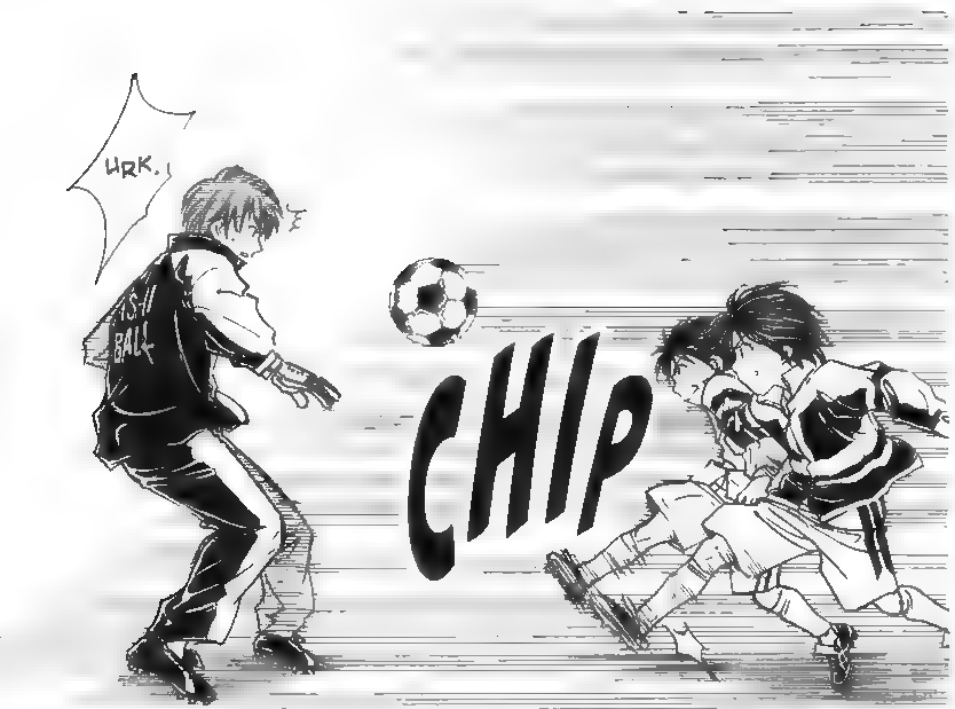
SURE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT.
I'LL GO FIRST...
BUT...

SHO
OH
FORGET IT!
SOLE FEINT.
NICE!

...GOING STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CENTER!
VOOSH
SHŌ! YOU FOOL!
WHY ARE YOU HEADING RIGHT INTO THE WALL?
CHU
NK
SPIN

FINE!
I'M GOING!
HE DODGED 'EM?!
NOT YET!
WOO-SH
WAS HE THIS GOOD BEFORE?
...

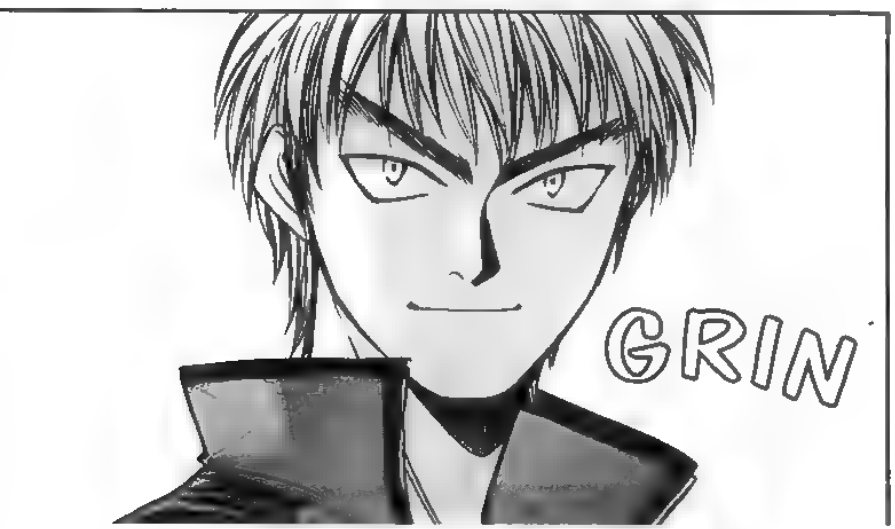
HE'LL BREAK THROUGH TO MY RIGHT
I'LL SNEAK BETWEEN THEM!
Masaki
Rokusuke
Shō
SLIP
AT A GLANCE, IT'S RECKLESS TO ATTACK WHERE THE DEFENSE IS CLUSTERED..
...BUT IF HE CAN DODGE THEM, HE'LL CREATE A HUGE SPACE.
FOR REAL?
AN ERROR!
OH NO!
WHIFF


URK.
CHIP

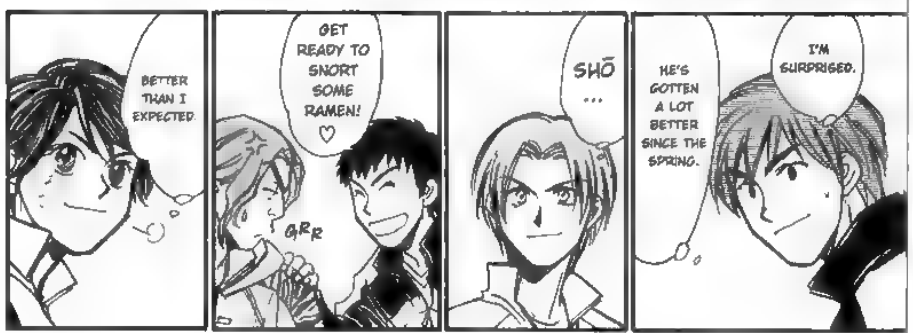
PA
NG
SKRIP
THUMPA

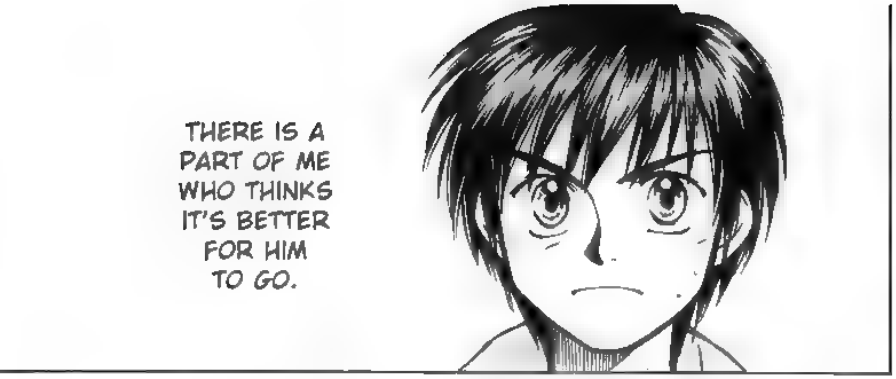
OH!
GOOD JOB. GETTING IN CLOSE MAKES IT HARD TO DEFEND.
GET OFFA ME!
FWAK
CLUNK
!
HE'S HEADING FOR THE KEEPER!
NOT YET?!
HE'S NOT...
... SHOOTING YET?
HIS ONLY OPPORTUNITY IS ON THE NEAR SIDE
TSUBASA HAS THE FAR SIDE BLOCKED

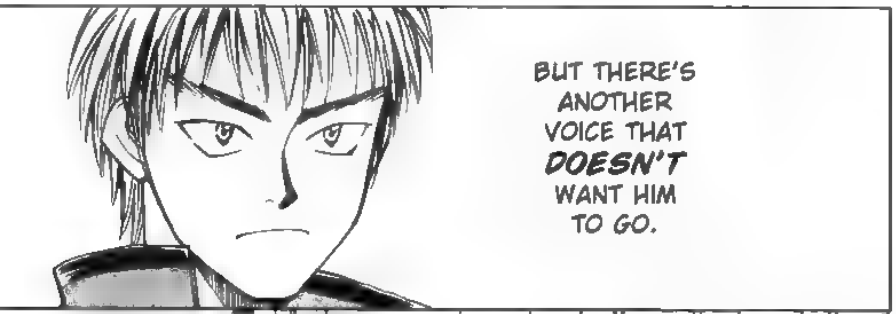
ARE YOU, RYOICHI ?!
ARE YOU WATCHING ?!

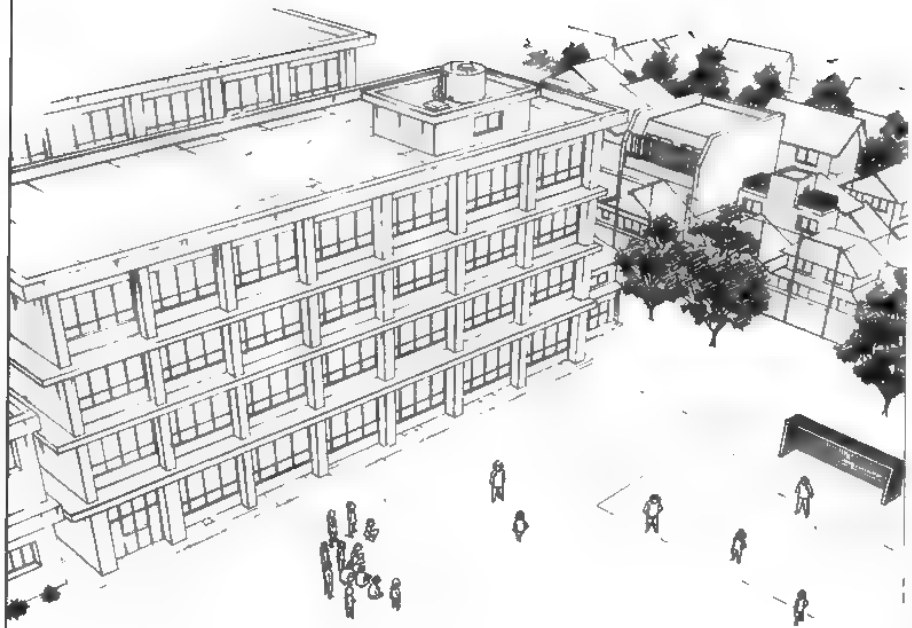

GRIN

HE DID IT!


BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.
GET READY TO SNORT SOME RAMEN! ♡
GRR
SHŌ ...
HE'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER SINCE THE SPRING.
I'M SURPRISED.

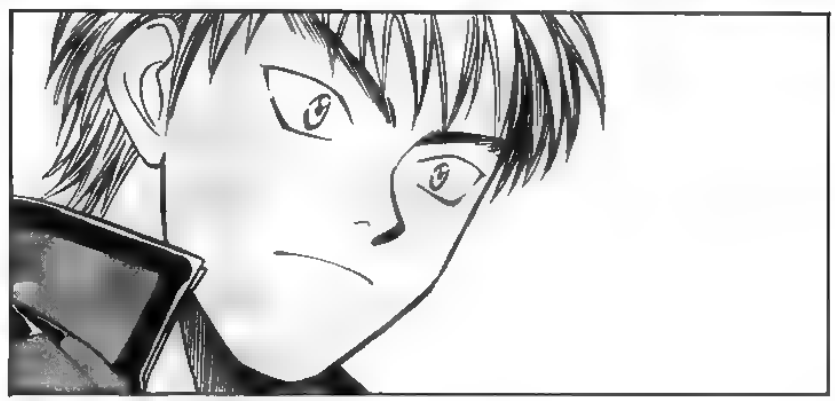




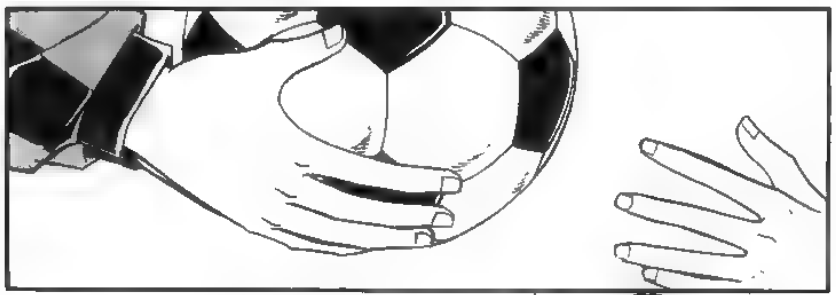


STAGE.145 Resurrected Man

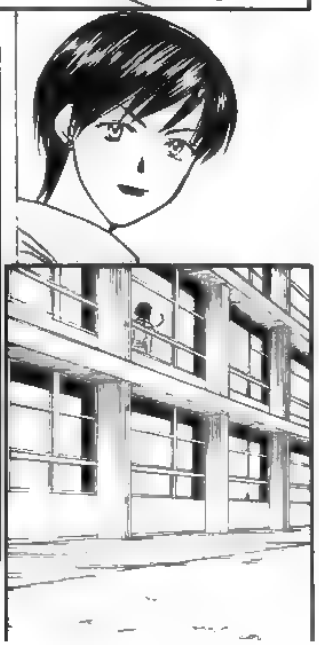
...I CAN DO.
THIS IS THE ONLY THING...



GRIN



HE HASN'T BEEN DOING GREAT LATELY, YOU KNOW.
HE MAY NOT.
SHŌ MADE IT, BUT WILL RYOICHI?



DA SH
HE'S USING SHEER FORCE.
HE'LL DODGE THE DEFENDERS AND SHOOT.
RIGHT FOOT ?!

I'LL...

ナイス
BOOM

WH
OO
OFF

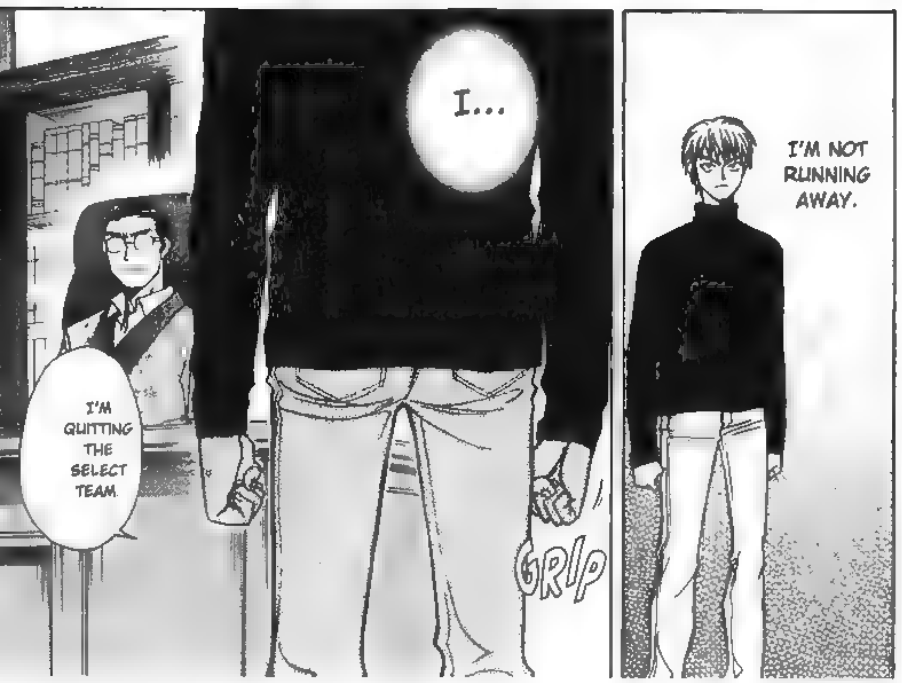
COACH.

I'M...
...GOING TO GERMANY.

HE'S RYOICHI AFTER ALL.
HE'S AWESOME.
CRUNCH
SO, WHO WON, ANYWAY?
DUNNO.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
IT'S OKAY.
ISN'T YOUR FATHER COMING?

WHAT IS IT?


I'M QUITTING THE SELECT TEAM.
I...
GRIP
I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY.

Narita Airport

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME SEE ME OFF.

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T?

DO AS YOU WISH.
FWAP
WHAT?
IF YOU'RE DONE, LEAVE.
I HAVE WORK TO DO.
FA ...
MY PASSPORT AND A ONE-WAY TICKET TO MUNICH.

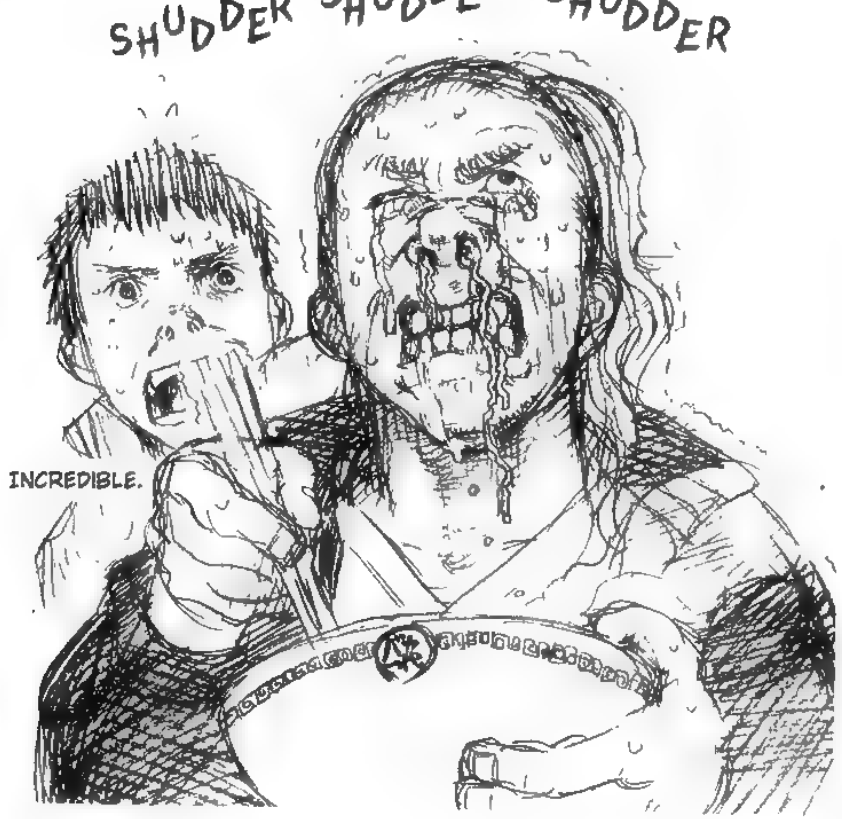
AND ...
TO CLEAR MY HEAD...
...AND MOVE FORWARD, I'M GOING TO GERMANY.
I'M MOVING TO GERMANY.
I DON'T CARE... WHATEVER HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT ME.
I DON'T CARE... EVEN IF HE'S DISAPPOINTED IN ME.

I'LL DEFINITELY OWN YOU!
THE NEXT TIME...
...WE MEET...
FORGET IT.
I'M NOT JUST GOING TO LIVE IN GERMANY. I'M GOING TO PLAY SOCCER THERE...
...AND RETURN AFTER I GET A LOT STRONGER.
THAT'S WHY...
SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT ME, WONDER BOY.
AND SO RYOICHI DEPARTED.
YUP.
...YOU'D BETTER GET ON THE TEAM.

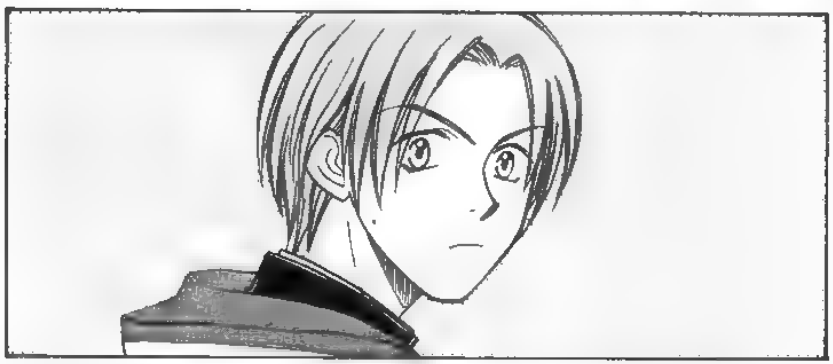
LATCH
THANKS, FATHER.
TIME FLIES.
HE'S ALREADY LEAVING.
TAKE CARE.
GOTTA GO.
PASSENGERS FOR LUFTHANSA FLIGHT NO. 125...

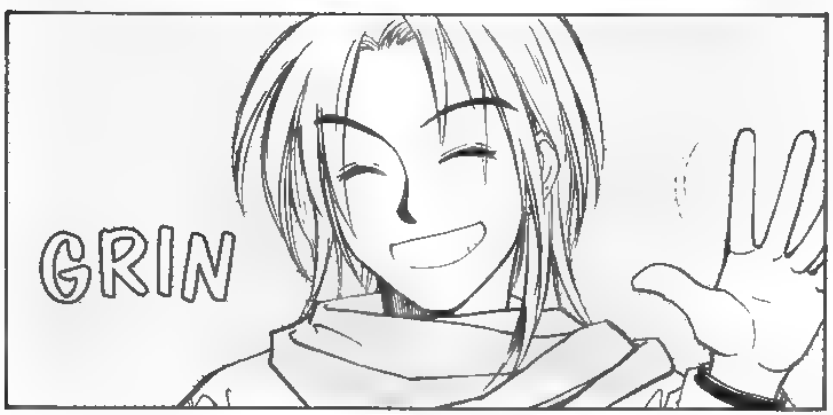
STAGE.146
The Troubled Man and the Challenger

TAKASHI, THE MAN, DID IT!

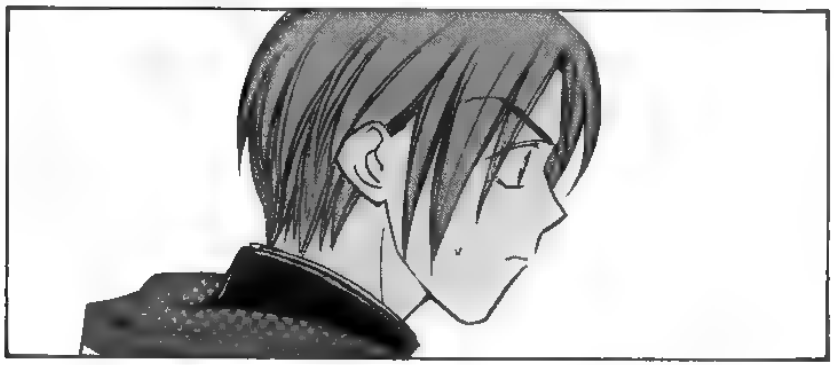


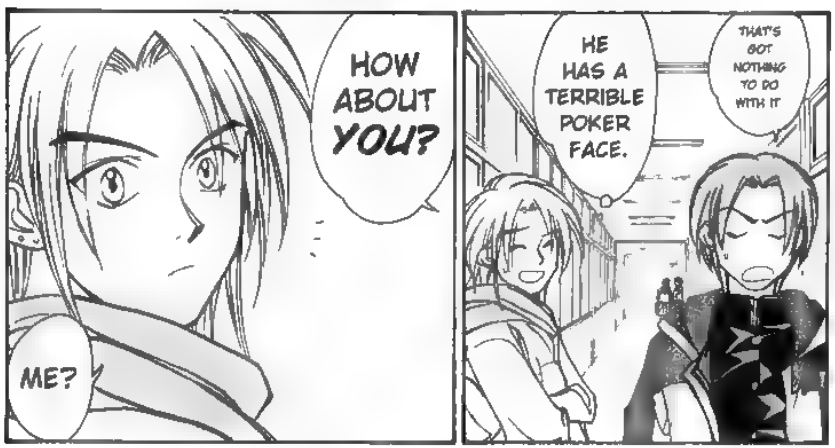
2 - A
HEY, BUDDY! WORKING HARD OR HARDLY WORKING?




GRIN

SELECT TEAM NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
I'M SORRY YOU THINK SO.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE. FIGURED I SHOULD TALK TO YOU
YOU WANT ME TO SAY "CAN'T COMPLAIN," OR WHAT?



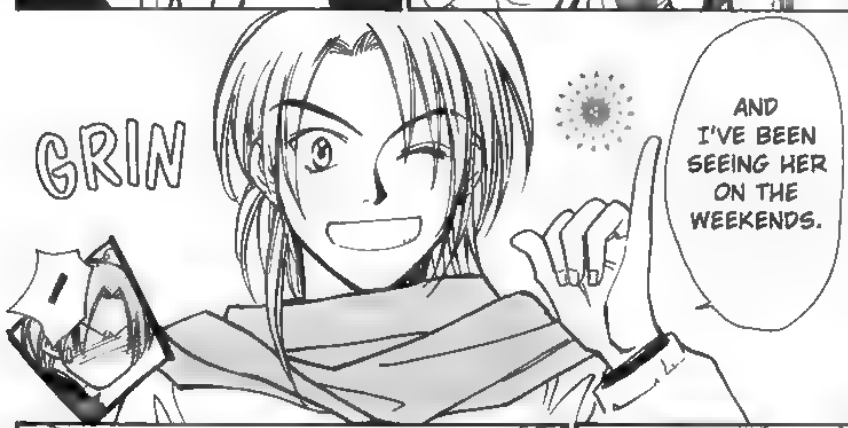

ME?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
HE HAS A TERRIBLE POKER FACE.
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT

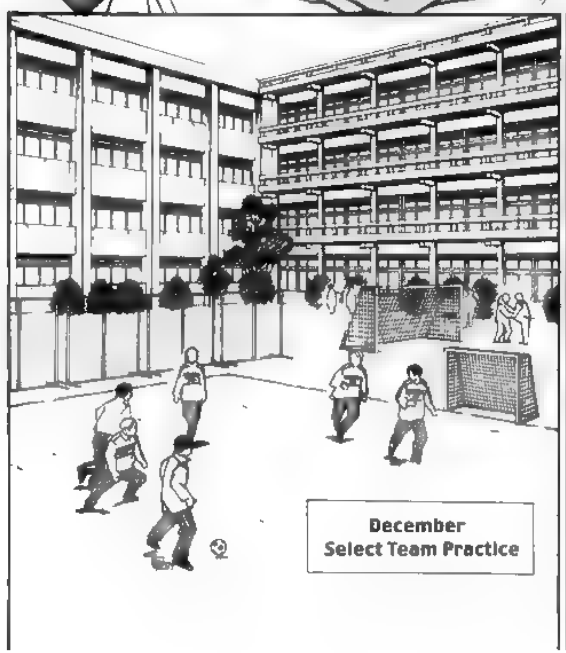
AFTER THAT... HAND BALL KEEP AWAY.
ONCE YOU'RE DONE WARMING UP, DO SOME FIVE-ON-FIVE HAND PASSES.
SHIGERU!
HITOYOSHI!
※ HAND PASS
IT'S COMMUNICATION TRAINING. YOU COMMUNICATE THROUGH EYE CONTACT, VOICE AND HANDS. ONE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER TO STAY IN EYE CONTACT AND FIND THE OPEN SPACE.

AFTER RYOICHI LEFT, THINGS SETTLED DOWN WITHOUT MUCH CONFUSION.

GOT ME A CHICA.

WHAT, IT BOTHERS YOU?
NOT AT ALL.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE ON THE WEEKENDS.


GRIN
AND I'VE BEEN SEEING HER ON THE WEEKENDS.


December
Select Team Practice

YOU'RE A CRASS ONE, SHIGEKI.
TATSU-BOY, YOU'RE SO NAÏVE. ♡
YOU'RE TURNING RED.
SHUT YOUR HOLE.

WHAT ABOUT ME, THEN?

TAT-SUYA !!
THESE PAST THREE MONTHS ...
FORGET IMPROVE-MENT, I DIDN'T EVEN...

IT'S BECAUSE SHŌ CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED .
...A REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS.
CHIP

SHŌ!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS TSUBASA WHO SET UP THE SHOW.

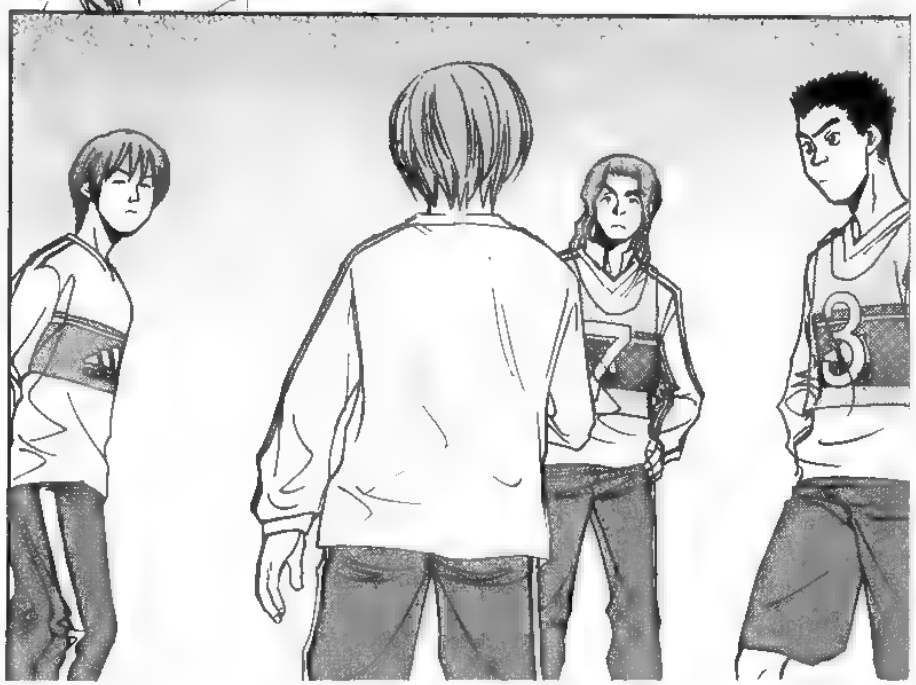
ARE YOU OKAY?
EVERYONE IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO ACCEPT SHŌ AS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM, AND NOT JUST A SUBSTITUTE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YOU FOOL
FWAP
OUCH.

MAN.
EMBARRASSING
GOTTA PASS THE BALL FAST.

I...
TO WHOM?
I HAVEN'T ESTABLISHED A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH ANYONE ON THE TEAM.

TAT-SUYA ?!
SNAP

I'M OKAY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I THREW IT BECAUSE YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME.



IS IT OKAY TO LEAVE HIM ALONE?

IT'S OKAY. I WANT HIM TO THINK ABOUT IT.
HE'S TROUBLED TO THE POINT WHERE HE'S JUST... STALLED.

IT'S EASY TO GIVE HIM THE ANSWER, BUT THEN, HE WON'T LEARN.
THAT BOY HAS THE ABILITY TO FIND THE ANSWER.

TAT-SUYA!
TATSU ...

Drip

TAKE FIVE, AND GET THAT LOOKED AFTER.

BUT ME... I'M STAGNATING.
THIS IS NOT COOL.
SHŌ IS ADVANCING QUICKLY.

FIVE-ON-FIVE PLUS TWO FREE KICK TRAINING NEXT!

IT WOULD BE A WASTE...
...WHEN HE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GENIUS WITH A SOCCER BALL.
THAT'S RIGHT
WHEN YOU'RE TOO SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO, YOU CANNOT PROGRESS.
THAT BOY DOESN'T KNOW THE JOY OF COMMUNICATING AT A HIGHER LEVEL.
I WANT HIM TO BECOME THE CORE OF THE TEAM...
...AND THAT MEANS HE MUST THINK OF HOW TO CREATE THINGS FOR THE OTHER PLAYERS, NOT JUST HIMSELF.

HE'S AN INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER.
HE HAS ALWAYS PLAYED BY INSTINCT.
HE DIDN'T NEED TO THINK... HE WAS THE NUMBER ONE UNTIL NOW.
WITHOUT BEING AWARE IT, HE BECAME TOO SATISFIED WITH HIS OWN TALENT.
HE'S BECOME CONCEITED AND ARROGANT.

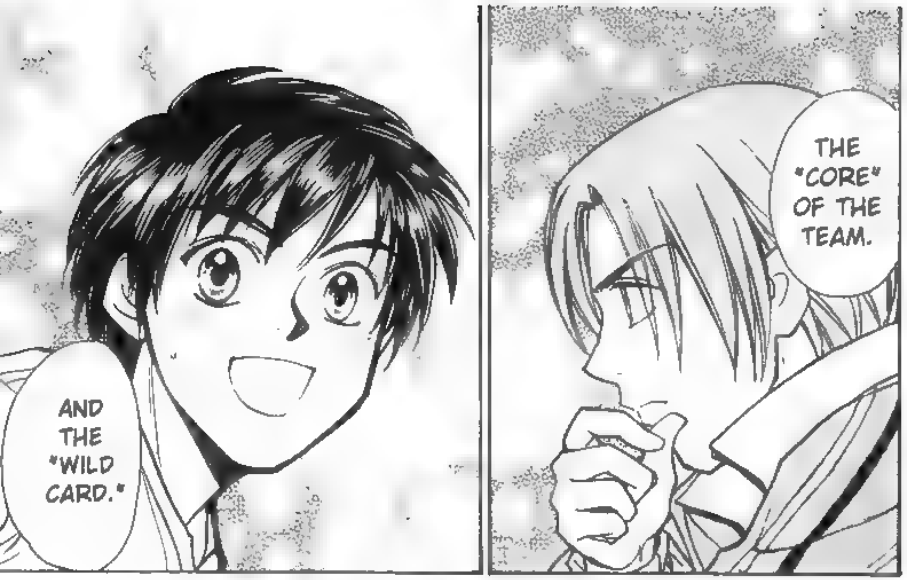
READ THIS WAY

TAKASHI NARUMI, THE POWER FORWARD, HAS A DANGEROUS ATTACK THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF HIS HEIGHT AND HIS STRENGTH.
BUT HE NEEDS TO IMPROVE HIS FOOTWORK AND CONTROL HIS ANGER ON THE PITCH.

SEIJI FUJISHIRO IS A QUICK DRIBBLER WITH EXCELLENT BALL CONTROL.
HE'S AN ALL-AROUND FORWARD WHO HAS NO OBVIOUS WEAK-NESSES.

PSYCHO-LOGICALLY, KAZUMA SANADA IS VULNERABLE.
BUT HIS POST PLAY, WHICH IS SERVED BY HIS EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY TO PROTECT THE BALL...
...GIVES OUR OFFENSE SOME VARIETY.

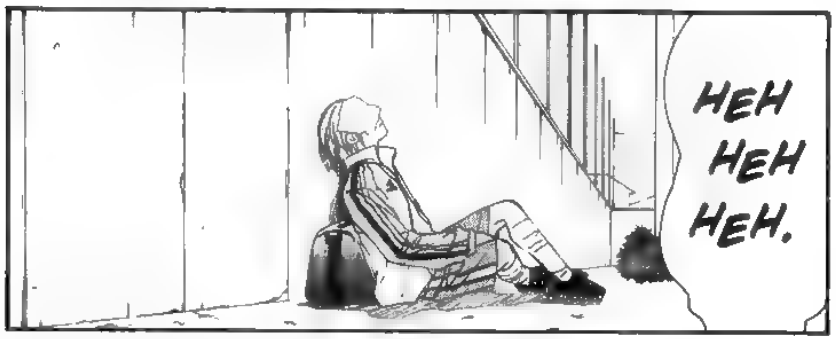
AND, WHEN THE GAME COMES TO A DEADLOCK WITH THESE PLAYERS...
...THE SUPER SUB WE'LL USE IS ...
...WE CAN PRODUCE A FLEXIBLE OFFENSE!
DEPENDING ON THE OPPONENT, IF WE CHANGE THE COMBINATION OF THOSE THREE...


AND THE "WILD CARD."
THE "CORE" OF THE TEAM.

THE GROWTH OF THESE TWO IS THE KEY TO OUR OFFENSE.

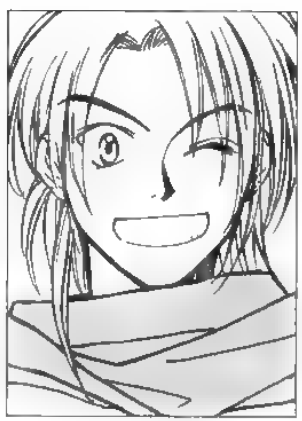
...SHŌ.
...HIS AGGRESSIVE FORWARD MOMENTUM AND STUBBORNNESS WITH THE BALL ARE UNMATCHED ON THE TEAM.
THE WAY HE INSTANTLY JUMPS OUT...

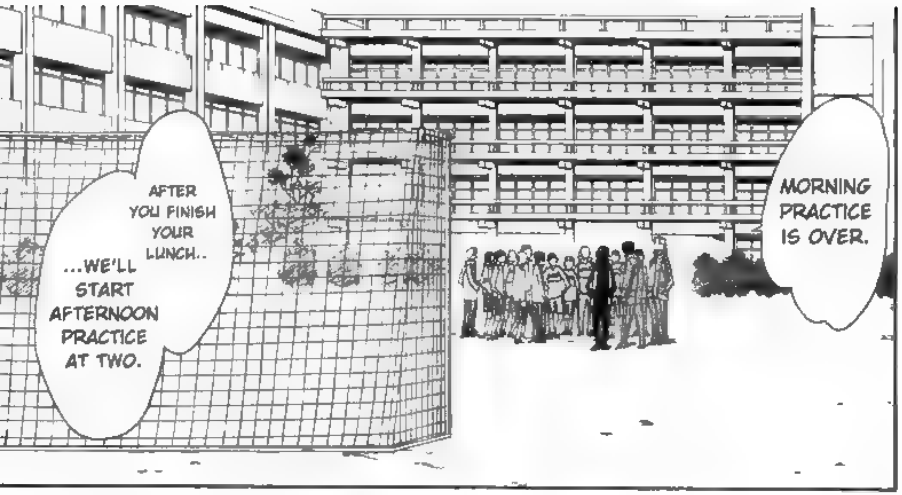
...BUT HIS BALL CONTROL IS IMPROVING EVERY DAY.
HE'S WEAK PHYSICALLY ...



STAGE.147 **Who Gets to Go to Korea?!**

WHISTLE!





STAGE.147

Who Gets to Go to Korea?!

IS SHE SERIOUS?
GOTTA BE A JOKE.
WHICH IS IT?
♪
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
THAT WAS KIND OF... COLD.

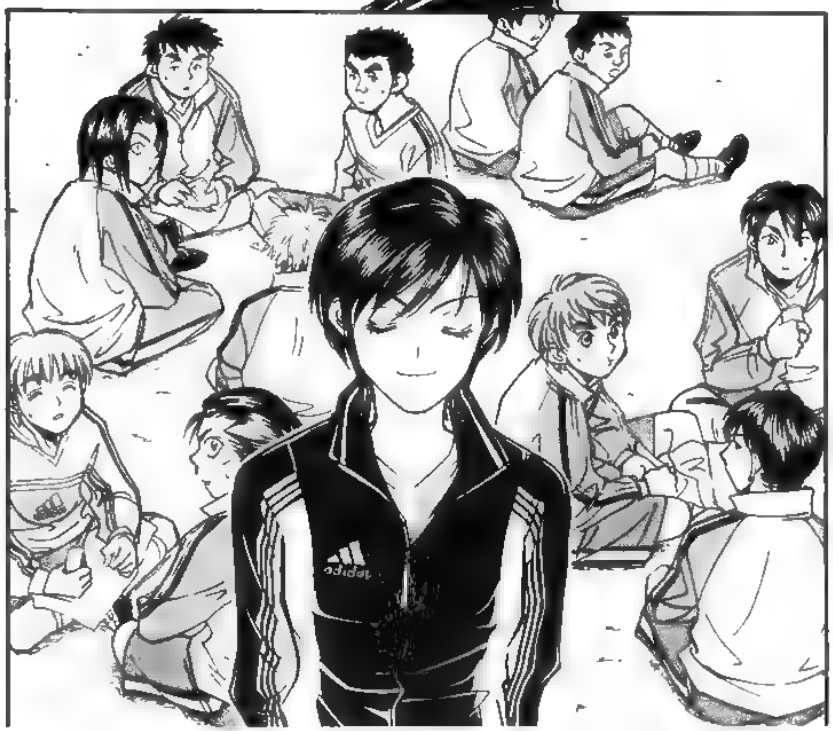
SHE WOULD DO THAT!
SHE MADE IT SOUND LIKE A JOKE, BUT SHE'S SERIOUS!

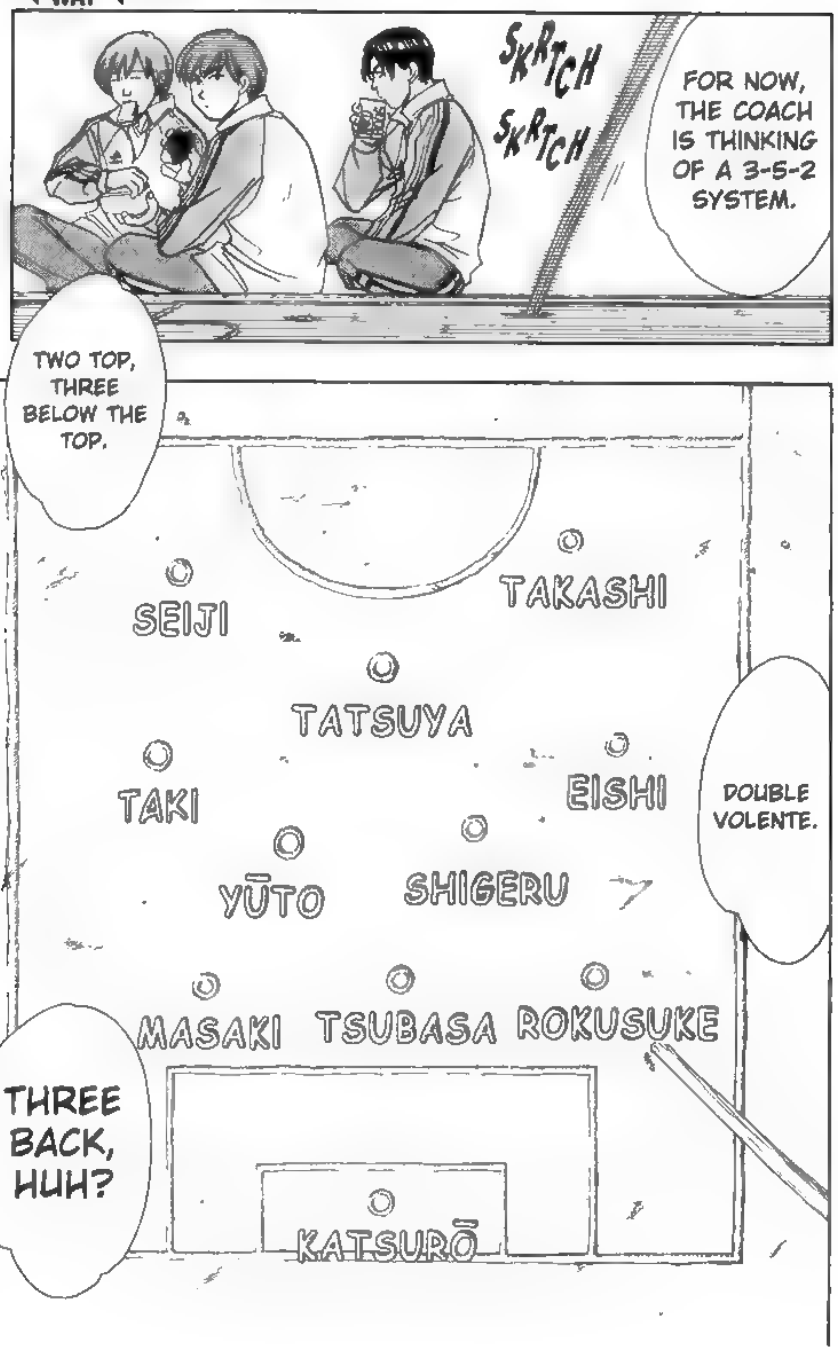
IN MY CASE, IT'S A QUESTION OF WHETHER I'LL BE A STARTER OR NOT
OBVIOUSLY.
IT'S IRRELEVANT FOR EISHI, KAZUMA AND ME.

RRVN THO...
(EVEN SO...)
MAYBE SHE'S SUGGESTING SHE'LL MAKE AN OFFICIAL DECISION DURING THE AFTERNOON PRACTICE.
THAT'S TRUE...

...TO KOREA?
YOU THINK THAT ALL OF YOU CAN GO...

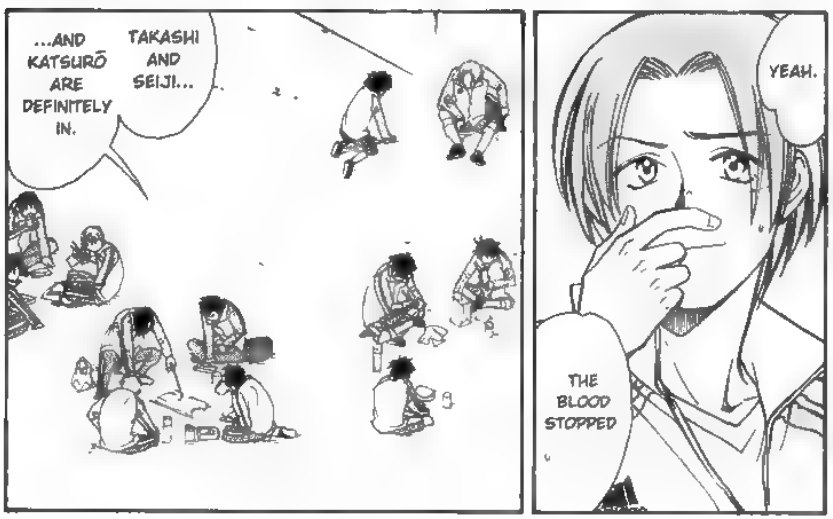
IF WE HAVE 16 PEOPLE, WE'LL BE FINE.
ELEVEN PLAYERS AND FIVE SUBS.


adidas


SKRTCH SKRTCH
FOR NOW, THE COACH IS THINKING OF A 3-5-2 SYSTEM.
TWO TOP, THREE BELOW THE TOP.
SEIJI
TAKASHI
TATSUYA
TAKI
EISHI
YŪTO
SHIGERU
MASAKI
TSUBASA
ROKUSUKE
KATSURŌ
DOUBLE VOLENTE.
THREE BACK, HUH?

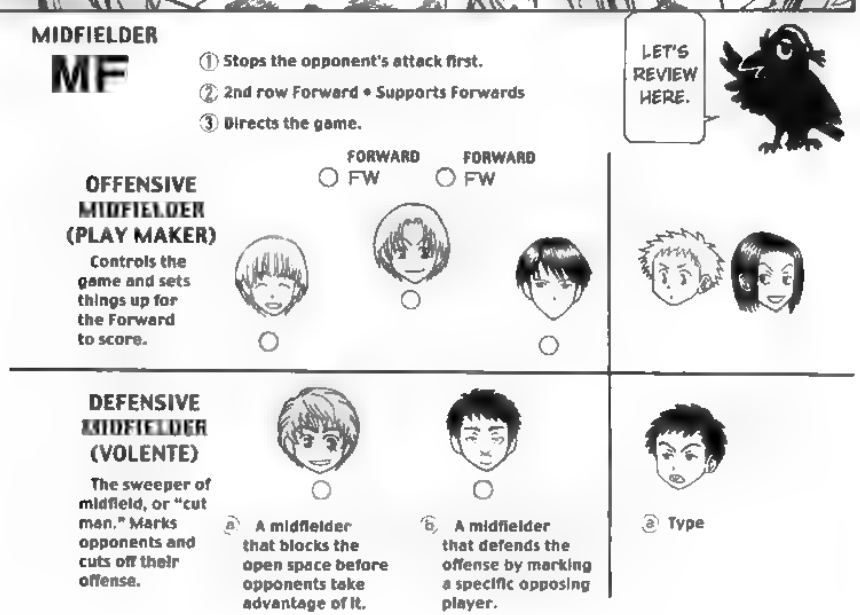
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'VE GOT NO FEEL FOR PASSING! YOU'RE GOOD AT CROSSES, AND THAT MAKES YOU BETTER SUITED TO THE SIDE.
LIKE I SAID, THAT'S ME!
AND, THE MIDDLE IS DECIDED WITH TATSUYA.

TATSUYA, ARE YOU OKAY?
BUT I CAN DRIBBLE.
YOU HAVE NO FEEL FOR PASSING!


...AND KATSURŌ ARE DEFINITELY IN.
TAKASHI AND SEIJI...
YEAH.
THE BLOOD STOPPED

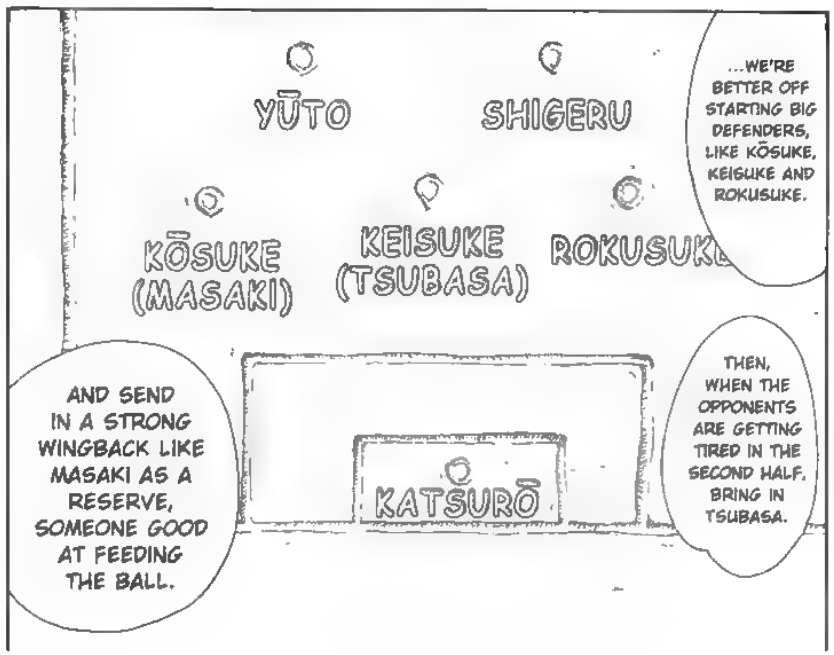
BLAZE
YŪTO HAS A TENDENCY GO TOO FAR UP. SO IF HITOYOSHI DOES THE FOLLOW, IT WOULD HELP.
YOU'RE GOOD AT READING OPPONENTS.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WOULDN'T YOU BE BETTER THAN SHIGERU AS VOLENTE?

YOU COULDN'T DIRECT TRAFFIC ON A SUNDAY, YŪTO.
BUT ACTUALLY, THE PLAYER WHO DIRECTS THE GAME IS CALLED VOLENTE.
IN JAPAN, THE DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER IS CALLED VOLENTE.


MIDFIELDER
MF
① Stops the opponent's attack first.
② 2nd row Forward • Supports Forwards
③ Directs the game.
LET'S REVIEW HERE.
FORWARD FW
FORWARD FW
OFFENSIVE MIDFIELDER (PLAY MAKER)
Controls the game and sets things up for the Forward to score.
DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER (VOLENTE)
The sweeper of midfield, or "cut man." Marks opponents and cuts off their offense.
ⓐ A midfielder that blocks the open space before opponents take advantage of it.
ⓑ A midfielder that defends the offense by marking a specific opposing player.
ⓐ Type

NO, THE OTHER WAY. TWO DEFENDERS AND ONE MIDDLE FIELDER.
THE REMAINING THREE WOULD BE TWO MIDFIELDERS AND ONE DEFENDER.
AND, ONE OF THE FOUR RESERVES WOULD BE THE KEEPER (KENTARŌ), RIGHT?

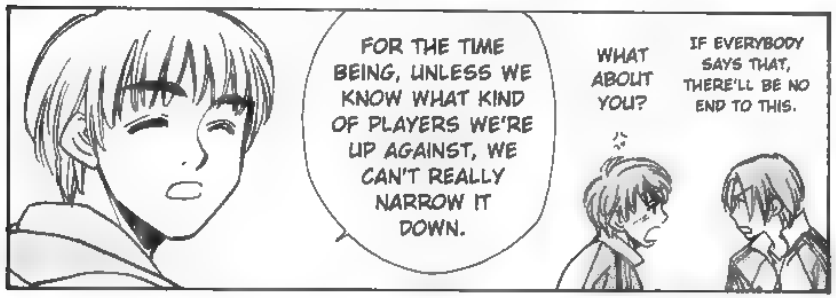
TSUBASA ISN'T BAD, BUT THIS TIME...
KOREAN FORWARDS ARE POWERFUL, YOU KNOW. THEY'RE SOLIDLY BUILT.

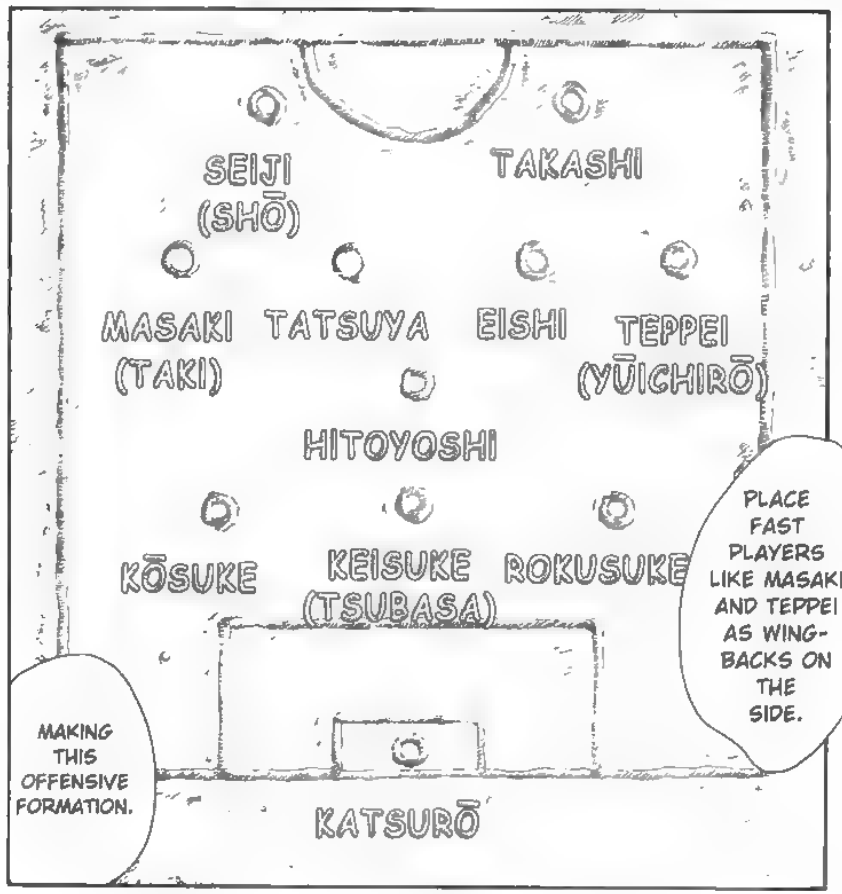

YŪTO
SHIGERU
...WE'RE BETTER OFF STARTING BIG DEFENDERS, LIKE KŌSUKE, KEISUKE AND ROKUSUKE.
KŌSUKE (MASAKI)
KEISUKE (TSUBASA)
ROKUSUKE
AND SEND IN A STRONG WINGBACK LIKE MASAKI AS A RESERVE, SOMEONE GOOD AT FEEDING THE BALL.
KATSURŌ
THEN, WHEN THE OPPONENTS ARE GETTING TIRED IN THE SECOND HALF, BRING IN TSUBASA.

READ THIS WAY
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE KOREAN NATIONAL TEAM'S DEFENSE ...
. THEY MIGHT BE STRONG AGAINST THE OFFENSE FROM THE SIDE..
SKRTCH
...BUT THEY'RE WEAK AGAINST AN OFFENSE THAT CUTS DIAGONALLY ACROSS THE INSIDE.
THE JUNIOR TEAMS OFTEN REFLECT THE STYLE OF THE NATIONAL TEAM.
TAT-SUYA!

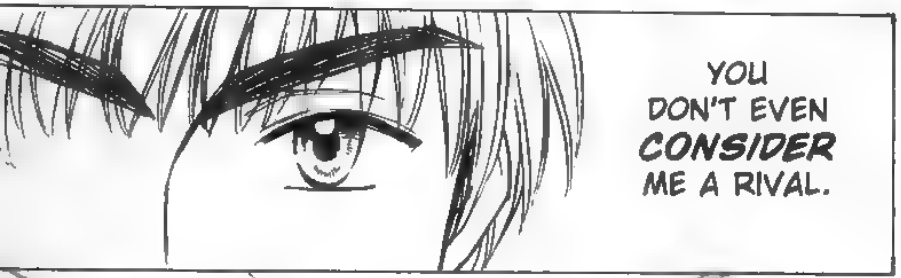
DO OM
WHAT ABOUT ME?
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR TEPPEI TO PLAY.
TEPPEI WILL DEFINITELY BE LEFT BEHIND.
AND AS A MIDFIELDER, YOU WOULD BE A DISASTER AT BOTH HANDLING THE BALL AND PASSING.
ALL YOU CAN DO IS RUN FAST. YOU'RE AN INCOMPLETE FORWARD.

READ THIS WAY


FOR THE TIME BEING, UNLESS WE KNOW WHAT KIND OF PLAYERS WE'RE UP AGAINST, WE CAN'T REALLY NARROW IT DOWN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IF EVERYBODY SAYS THAT, THERE'LL BE NO END TO THIS.



...YOU ALSO HAVE A RIVAL IN SEOUL.
JUST LIKE I'M CHASING YOU AS A RIVAL...


YOU DON'T EVEN CONSIDER ME A RIVAL.

LUNCH-TIME IS OVER!
EVERY-ONE!

HIM, HUH?
SEOUL ...

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO PLAY HIM THIS SOON.

ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL TAKE ALL OF YOU.
THAT MEANS ...

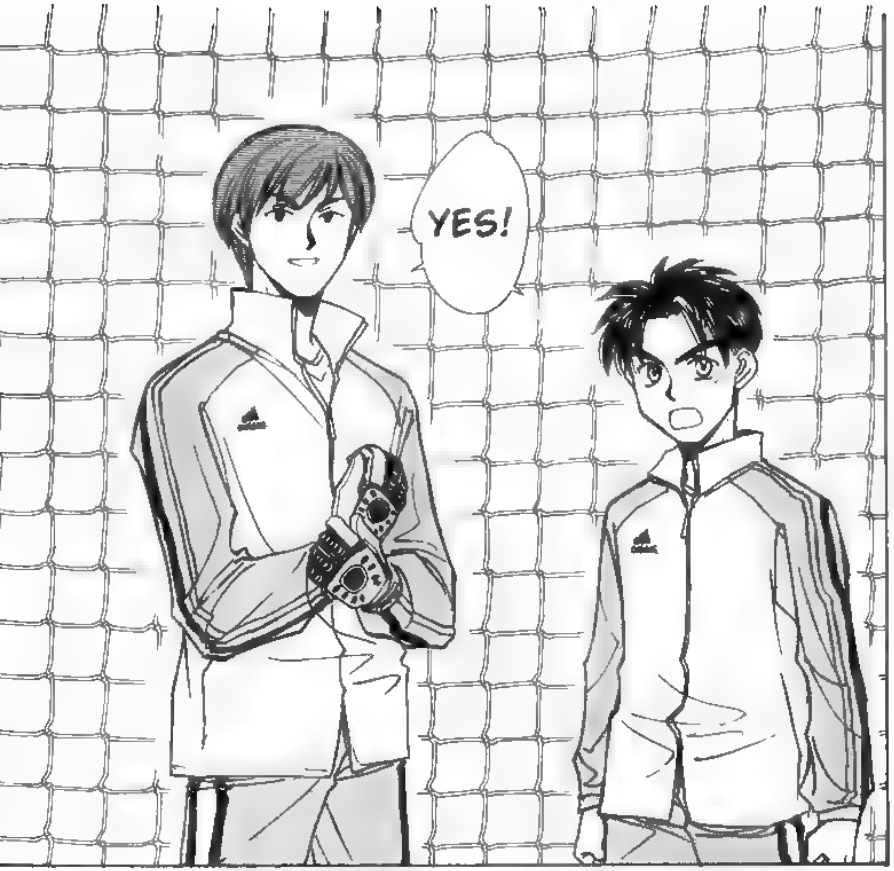
WHAT? ARE YOU A MORON?
SHH.
WE NEED A PASSPORT TO GO TO KOREA?

PFF
OH.
WHAT? REALLY ?!
YOU NEED ONE TO GO TO HOKKAIDO, TOO, SHŌ.

!
BECAUSE THE COACH SAID, "DO YOU THINK ALL OF YOU CAN GO TO KOREA?"
WHAT'S WITH THE SECRET MEETING?

A·HA HA

EVERY-ONE NEEDS A PASSPORT!
...GOT YOU GUYS.
AKIRA REALLY ...

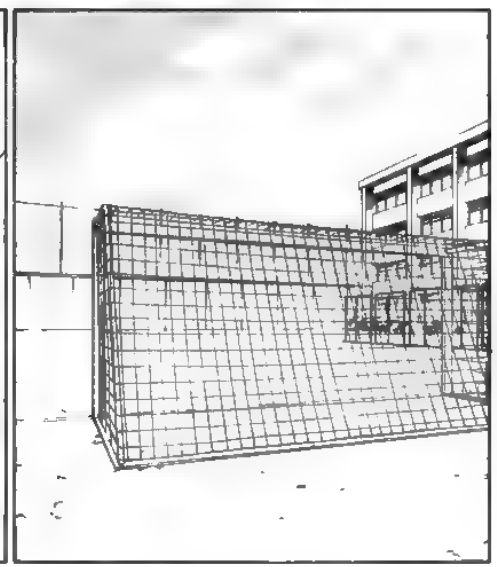

YES!

KAT-
SURŌ.

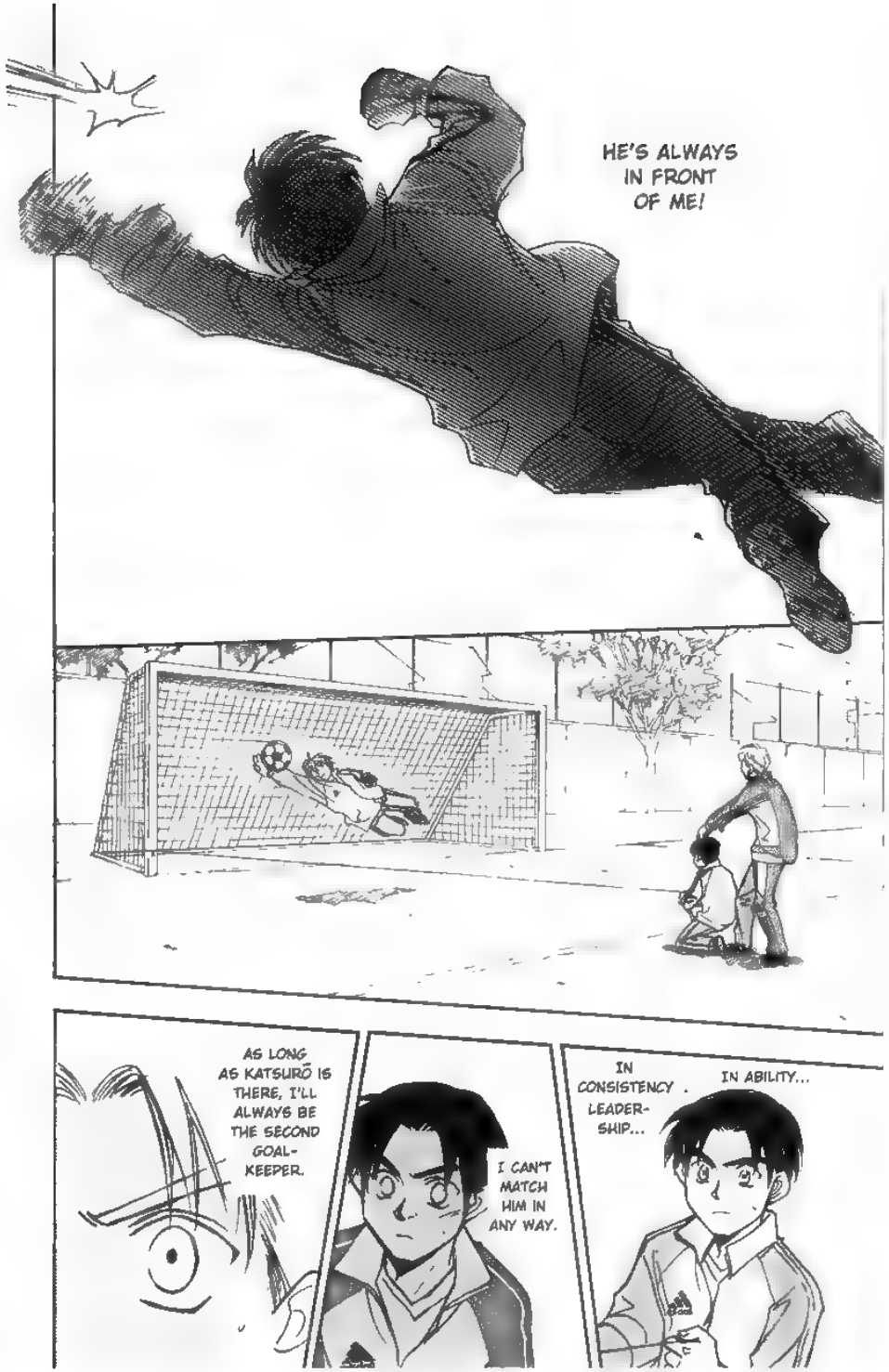
ENOUGH YAPPING! WE'RE STARTING PRACTICE.
CLAP
CLAP
COME ON.

HEH.

...GET GOING, TOO.
WELL, WE SHOULD ...



WHAT'S WRONG?!
KAT-SURŌ!
URK...


HE'S ALWAYS IN FRONT OF ME!
AS LONG AS KATSURŌ IS THERE, I'LL ALWAYS BE THE SECOND GOAL-KEEPER.
I CAN'T MATCH HIM IN ANY WAY.
IN CONSISTENCY . LEADER-SHIP...
IN ABILITY...

STAGE.148

Second Keeper

WHISTLE!

I'M SORRY. I HAD A BAD LANDING.
I'M OKAY.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE PAIN WHERE I INJURED IT BEFORE.
WE'LL HAVE A DOCTOR TAKE A LOOK JUST TO MAKE SURE.

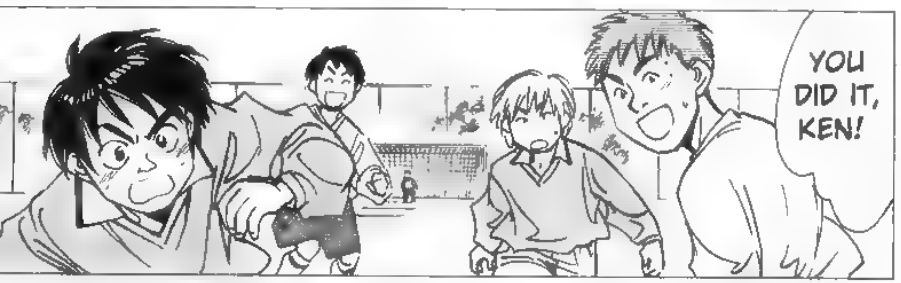
AH...
URK.
WHAT'S WRONG?
KATSURŌ, IS IT YOUR KNEE?

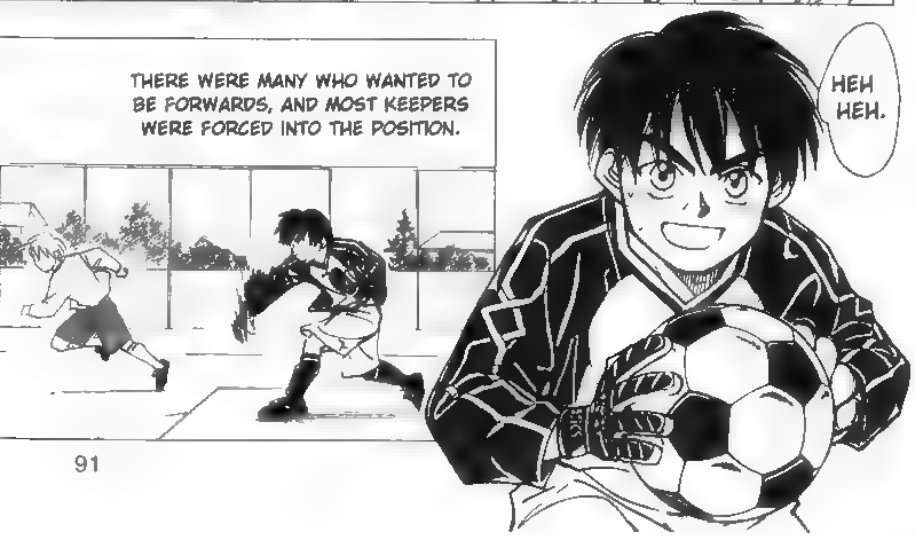
I'M SORRY ... I SCREWED UP.
SMILE

PAT
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

YET AGAIN.

EVER SINCE I STARTED PLAYING SOCCER...
...I DEVOTED MYSELF TO BEING THE KEEPER.


YOU DID IT, KEN!


THERE WERE MANY WHO WANTED TO BE FORWARDS, AND MOST KEEPERS WERE FORCED INTO THE POSITION.
HEH HEH.

HE MADE HIS SENIOR GOAL-KEEPER RETIRE AND [redacted] A STARTER WHEN HE WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE.
THE GOAL- [redacted] OF THE RENOWNED MUSASHI-NOMORI PRIVATE SCHOOL, KATSURŌ SHIBUSAWA (EIGHTH GRADER).

READING TECHNIQUE. PHYSICAL ABILITY.
HE WAS EXCEPTIONAL IN EVERY WAY.

I LIKE THE POSITION... IT'S THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE ON THE FIELD.
BUT I BECAME A GOALKEEPER BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE ONE.

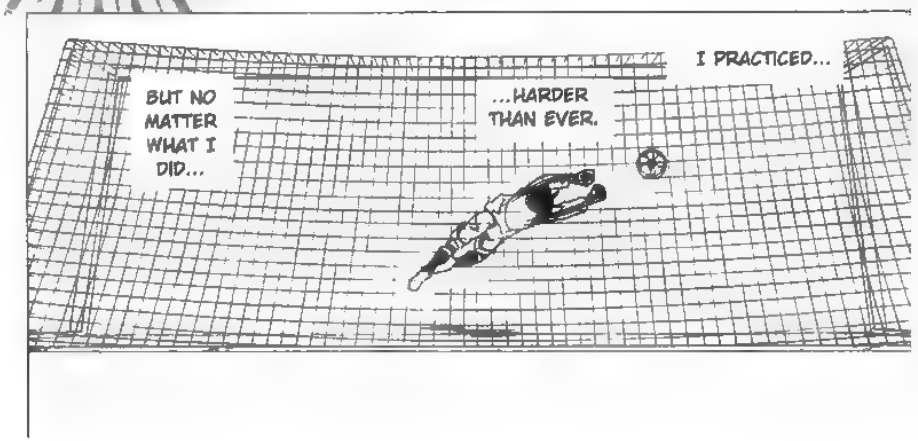
YEAH, DAD.
THE GOALKEEPERS ARE THE BEST PLAYERS, YOU KNOW...
KENTARŌ.

BUT...
I PRACTICED A LOT MORE THAN THE OTHERS, AND BY THE TIME I WAS IN THE SIXTH GRADE, I WAS THE BEST IN MY LOCAL AREA.
I'M GOING TO GET BETTER...
...AND BE THE NUMBER ONE GOAL-KEEPER.

AS LONG AS KATSURŌ WAS THERE, I COULD NEVER BE NUMBER ONE!

I ALWAYS TASTE THIS SENSE OF DEFEAT WHENEVER I AM ON THE SAME TEAM WITH HIM.
I'LL BE THE SECOND KEEPER *FOREVER.*
KEN-TARŌ!
...I WOULD NEVER BE DEFEATED BY KATSURŌ.
IF ONLY I WERE BLESSED WITH A BETTER BODY. IF ONLY I WERE BLESSED WITH A BETTER TEAM...

...AND I LEARNED I COULDN'T BE NUMBER ONE FOREVER.
1ST 0
2ND 0
EX
TOTAL 0
WHEN I BECAME A GOOD PLAYER, MY WORLD EXPANDED...
DON'T *PATRONIZE* ME.
I LET TWO GO PAST ME.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB IN GOAL.
NICE GAME!
I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT WANT TO LOSE AGAINST HIM!


BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DID...
...HARDER THAN EVER.
I PRACTICED...

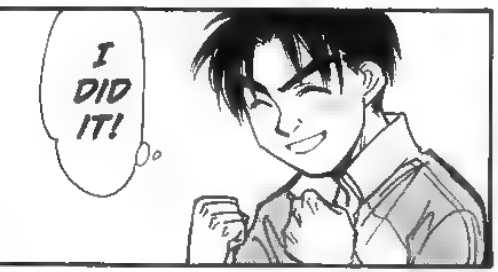
SMAP
NICE ELEVATION!
WOW.

ARE YOU READY?
YES!
WE'LL CONFIRM THE FORMATION.
YES!
CAN KENTARŌ HANDLE IT?
NEVER MIND!
I'M GOING TO WIN EVERY-ONE'S TRUST.
SO THAT I CAN BECOME THE STARTING GOALKEEPER, REPLACING KATSURŌ.
GRIP
MY CHANCE HAS FINALLY COME.

SMAP
HIS BOLDNESS AND JUDGMENT AREN'T BAD.
IT WAS TOUGH TO DECIDE WHETHER TO GO FORWARD OR TO PULL BACK.
THAT KENTARŌ IS PRETTY GOOD.
PRETTY GOOD.

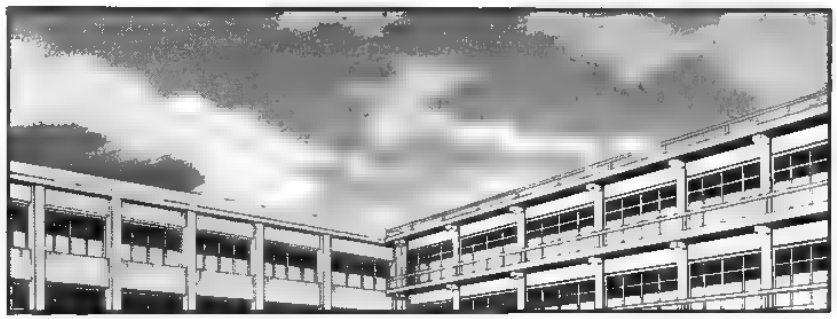
HIS FEEDS ARE FAST AND ACCURATE.
FOOM
IT'S GOING TO THE BACK-FIELD!
I'VE GOT IT!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELVES OVER THE HOLIDAY, AND DON'T SLACK ON YOUR CONDITIONING.
WE'LL BE BUSY NEXT YEAR.
THANK YOU!
THAT'S ALL. DISMISSED!


I DID IT!

KENTARŌ, YOU HAVE A SEC?

KENTARŌ, YOU PLAYED WELL.
KEEP IT UP!
THANKS.



AND THEN IN MARCH, THE SELECT TEAM TOURNAMENT WILL BEGIN.
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT, WE'LL HAVE THE GAME AGAINST SEOUL SELECT.
adidas

THE NEXT ONES ARE JANUARY 5TH AND 6TH NEXT YEAR.
THE LAST PRACTICE OF THIS YEAR IS OVER TODAY.

IT TURNS OUT IT'LL TAKE A WHOLE MONTH TO COMPLETELY HEAL.

KA-TSURŌ'S INJURY...

THUMPA

HE MIGHT MAKE IT FOR THE GAME, BUT JUST TO BE SAFE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE HIM SIT OUT.
THAT MEANS HE'LL MAKE IT FOR THE KOREA GAME...
A WHOLE MONTH TO HEAL?!
SO, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU AS THE KEEPER FOR KOREA.
WHAT?

THUMPA

SHŌ.

THUMPA
MAYBE!
THUMPA

KEN-TARŌ.

RYO-ICHI'S ...
IT'S YOUR UNIFORM FROM NOW ON.
YES, MA'AM!

WHAT?
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY.
TAKE IT EASY.

I'LL DO MY BEST!
Y... YES!
I DID IT! AT LAST...

HERE.
YES.
SHŌ.

19
THIS IS YOUR UNIFORM.

IT'S THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING AND HOPING FOR!
I'M GONNA CRUSH KATSURŌ!
I CAN'T BE DE-FEATED!
TO MOVE FORWARD, I'VE GOTTA WIN ONE BATTLE AT A TIME!
KENTARŌ ...

IT WOULD BE A LIE IF I SAID I WASN'T HAPPY... BUT I...
I COULD BE INCLUDED AS A RESERVE.
BECAUSE RYOICHI, A SUPERIOR PLAYER IN TERMS OF PRACTICAL SKILL, LEFT...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I... I'M SORRY.
DON'T OVER-THINK IT!
HOW-EVER IT HAPPENS, A CHANCE IS A CHANCE!
KENTARŌ IS INTENSE.
I'M BEING NAÏVE!
AND IT'S LITTLE WONDER. KEEPERS ARE UNDER INCREDIBLE PRESSURE, AND IT'S A TOUGH BATTLE TO SEE WHO STARTS.
S... SEE YOU.
SEE YOU.
SLAP

STAGE.149 Historical Rival

WHISTLE!

THANK YOU FOR WORKING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS ...
... OYASSAN!
YOU ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF US. AND THANKS FOR ALL THE DELICIOUS ODEN.
WELL ...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE GIVING ME THAT
IT'S A PRESENT FROM KŌ AND ME.
WHAT...? THIS IS OUT OF THE BLUE.

READ THIS WAY

I'M JUST DOING WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO. NO REASON TO BE THANKED FOR THAT.
AND WHAT'S THE POINT OF AN ODEN STAND...TO SERVE BAD ODEN?
GROWL
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS.
GEEZ. YOU'RE STILL A KID.
GROWL
IF YOU SAY SO, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE ACCEPTING IT, OYASSAN.
HEH HEH
OH... YEAH.
RIIIP
WILL YOU OPEN IT, OYASSAN?
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A CRANKY OLD CODGER.

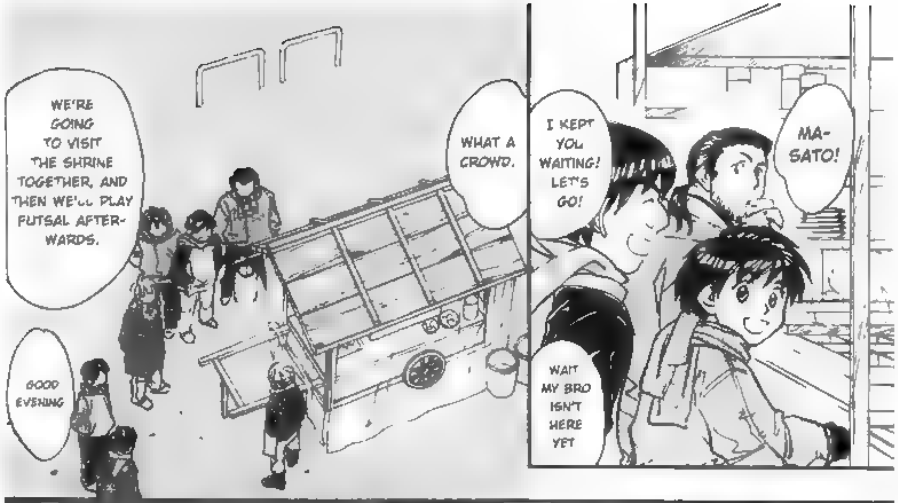
PFFF
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, WE NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN KOREANS WOULD ACCEPT THE JAPANESE IN A FRIENDLY MANNER.
TIMES HAVE CHANGED.
CLOSE ...
...AND YET, FAR. THAT'S KOREA.
FAR ...
...AND YET, CLOSE.
HIYA!
...

ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRIP TO KOREA?
DARN IT MY OLD PIPES SPRANG A LEAK.
IT'LL GET A LOT COLDER, SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GOOD.
THAT'S A NICE SWEATER.
YOU'RE GOING TO KOREA, SHŌ?
IS THAT RIGHT?
PRETTY MUCH.
I WENT TO GET MY PASSPORT, TOO.
OOOOH.
TOKYO SELECT IS GOING TO HAVE A FRIENDLY GAME WITH THE SEOUL SELECT TEAM.

THIS TIME OFF IS NO TIME TO BE HAVING FUN. YOU SHOULD GO TO HATSUMODE AND CLEAR YOUR MIND FOR THE NEW YEAR. I HOPE YOU'LL DO BETTER NEXT SEASON.
AH, OUCH.
STAB
STAB
MR. KOJIMA, YOU DIDN'T DO TOO WELL THIS YEAR. YOU WERE PULLED OUT A LOT.

SPEAKING OF FUTSAL...
HEY CALM DOWN
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, JERK!
I'M SORRY
BOOT

YES!
...WERE YOU ABLE TO MEET ANYBODY INTERESTING, SHŌ?


WE'RE GOING TO VISIT THE SHRINE TOGETHER, AND THEN WE'LL PLAY FUTSAL AFTERWARDS.
WHAT A CROWD.
I KEPT YOU WAITING! LET'S GO!
MASATO!
GOOD EVENING
WAIT MY BRO ISN'T HERE YET

WE'VE GOT A CHAPERON HERE!
BUT ARE YOU KIDS GOING ALL ALONE?
NO THANKS.
THE FIRST KICK OF THE YEAR, YOU KNOW
COACH, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?

IS IT OKAY FOR A J-LEAGUER LIKE YOU TO BE HERE?
BOW
I AM AKITO KOJIMA.
YOU ARE MATSUSHITA-SAN, RIGHT? THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY LITTLE SISTER.
HOW DO YOU DO?
BUT ...
IT WAS A REAL SHOCK.
WOW... YUKI'S BROTHER TURNS OUT TO BE KOJIMA OF KASHIWA
HE'S MY BROTHER.

SHALL WE GO, FOLKS?
BRO KŌ!
CHAPERON NUMBER TWO HAS ARRIVED!

OKAY, WE'RE OFF!
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A LUCKY ENCOUNTER.

...
SO WHAT DID YOU DO TO SHŌ THIS TIME?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DIDN'T ENJOY SEEING THEM.
SHUT UP.
SHEESH. WHAT A MERRY BUNCH.

...OF YOUR OWN GAME!
YOU SHOULD BECOME A MASTER...
YEAH, I MET SOMEONE INCREDIBLE!
HE GOT TOO BUSY TO COME TO FUTSAL, BUT...

IS THAT RIGHT?
JUST BY WATCHING THE WAY YOU IMPROVED DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS.
I CAN SEE IT.

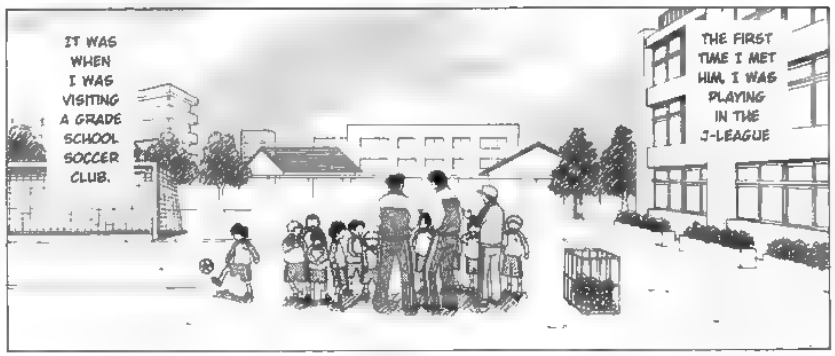
...HE'S MY IDOL, SORT OF.
FOR NOW, HE IS MY GOAL.

HIS DETERMINATION WAS ALSO BEYOND ANYONE ELSE'S.

WEIRD! HE'S GOT YAKISOBA IN IT.
SHUT UP. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
NO PROBLEM.
MASAHIRO'S LUNCH BOX IS HUGE!
MISTER MATSU-SHITA, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT? LAUGHING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU REMEMBERED?
PFF
PFF
PFF
TA-
DAH
SNEAK
YAKI-SOBA?

I JUST SAW SOMEONE THAT REMINDED ME OF HIM, AND I FELT LIKE GETTING THEM TOGETHER. THAT'S ALL.
NOTHING ...


IT WAS WHEN I WAS VISITING A GRADE SCHOOL SOCCER CLUB.
THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM, I WAS PLAYING IN THE J-LEAGUE

...BUT WHO MOVED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
...A BOY, WHO WAS SMALL...
3

THE ONE WHO CAUGHT MY ATTENTION WAS...

BOTH OF THEM BEING SOCCER NUTS, THEY MIGHT HAVE MET EVENTUALLY DOWN THE ROAD...
THEY ARE COMPLETE STRANGERS, AND YET THEY'RE SO MUCH ALIKE
...BUT IT MUST BE KARMA FOR THEM TO GET CONNECTED THROUGH ME.
KAZA
32
IT'S MY DREAM FOR 2002, YOU KNOW...
YOU LOOK HAPPY.

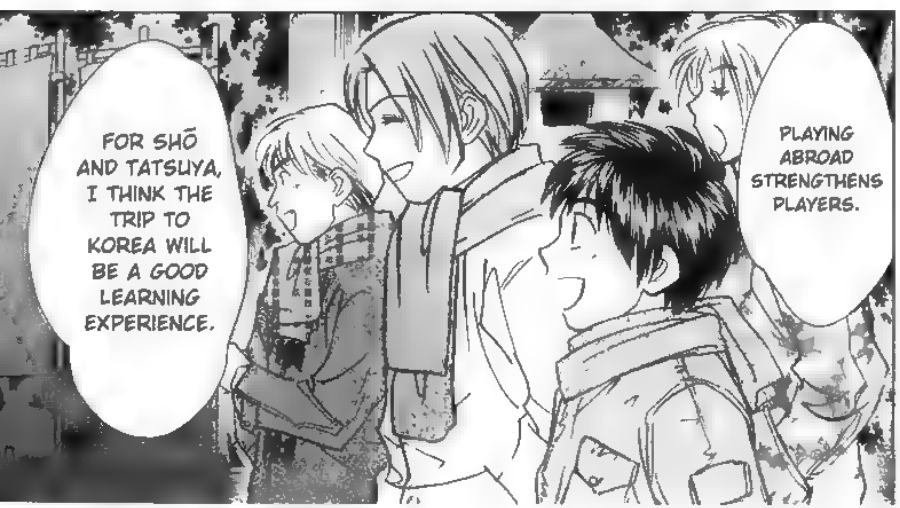
YOU DO LOVE THE YAKISOBA, DON'T YOU?
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT HIM UNTIL I SAW HIM AGAIN.

SHADDUP. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
MASA-HIRO SUŌ!

I WAS CONVINCED AFTER SEEING HOW HE PLAYED FUTSAL.
THAT'S THE BOY FROM WAY BACK WHEN!

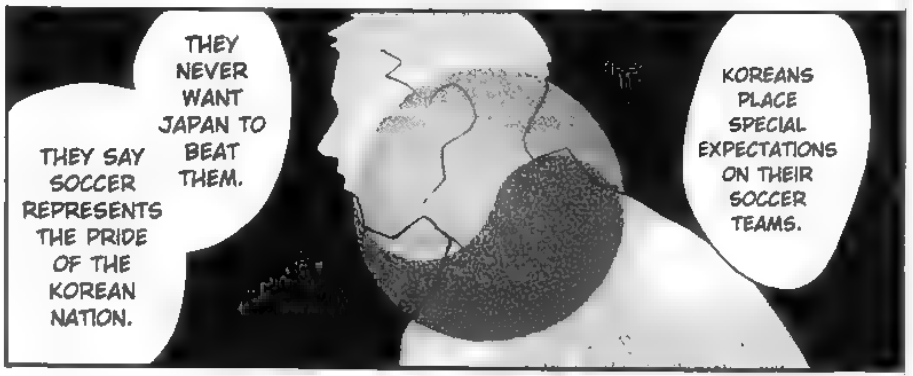
KOREA ISN'T A WALL ANY-MORE.
WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR SHŌ'S GENERATION TO PLAY, I ANTICIPATE THE RELATIONSHIP TO CHANGE EVEN MORE...
...INTO SOMETHING MORE LIKE RIVALS AND GOOD PARTNERS.

KOREAN PLAYERS ARE TOUGH... BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.
SOMETHING THAT WAS DIFFICULT FOR MY GENERATION ...
...THOSE CHILDREN MAY BE ABLE TO OVERCOME QUITE EASILY.


PLAYING ABROAD STRENGTHENS PLAYERS.
FOR SHŌ AND TATSUYA, I THINK THE TRIP TO KOREA WILL BE A GOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

KOREA AND JAPAN ARE RIVALS, FIGHTING FOR THE TICKET TO THE WORLD.
IT'S BEEN 44 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST JAPAN-KOREA GAME TOOK PLACE IN 1954.

YOU'RE WELL INFORMED, OYAGGAN
TALKING ABOUT THE WORLD CUP 2002, AREN'T THEY GOING TO HOLD IT IN BOTH KOREA AND JAPAN?


THEY SAY SOCCER REPRESENTS THE PRIDE OF THE KOREAN NATION.
THEY NEVER WANT JAPAN TO BEAT THEM.
KOREANS PLACE SPECIAL EXPECTATIONS ON THEIR SOCCER TEAMS.

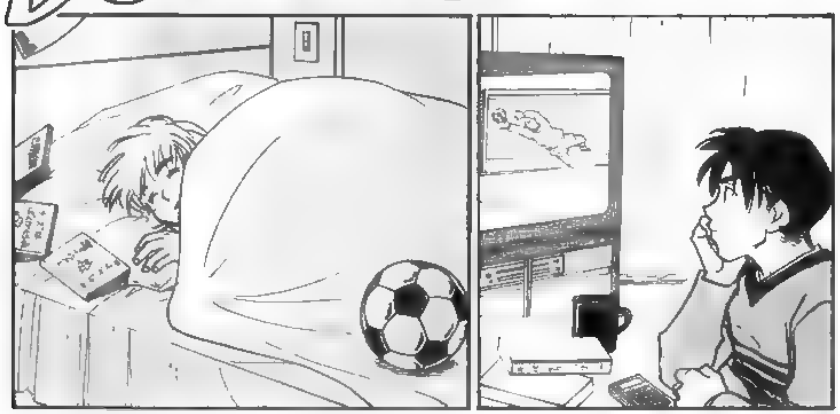
BUT THIS YEAR, IT CHANGED!
MY GENERATION WAS NO EXCEPTION.
KOREA HAS BEEN THE WALL THAT JAPAN COULDN'T CLIMB OVER FOR A LONG TIME.

AH.

DOOONG
A BELL IS RINGING SOME-WHERE.

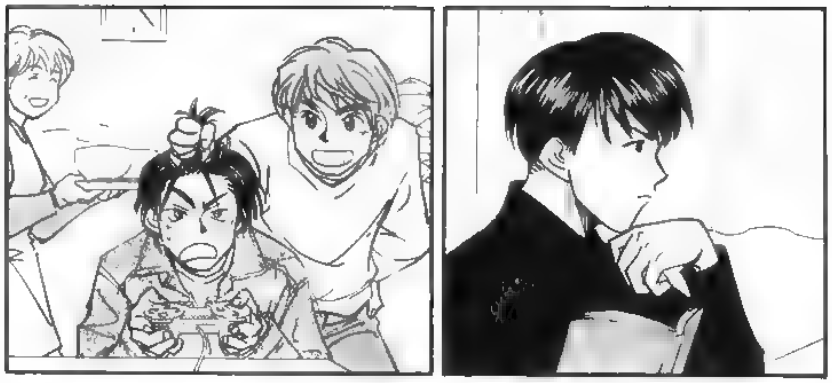
DOOONG

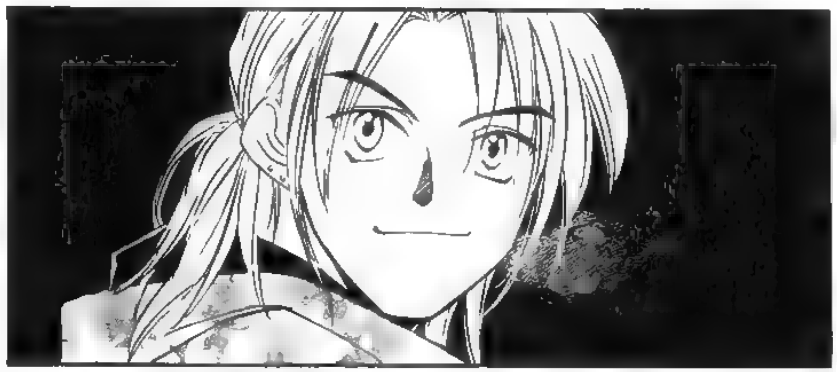
DOOONG



...I'LL SCORE A GOAL NO MATTER WHAT!
AT THE SEOUL GAME, EVEN IF I'M NOT STARTING, I WILL DEFINITELY PLAY! AND...

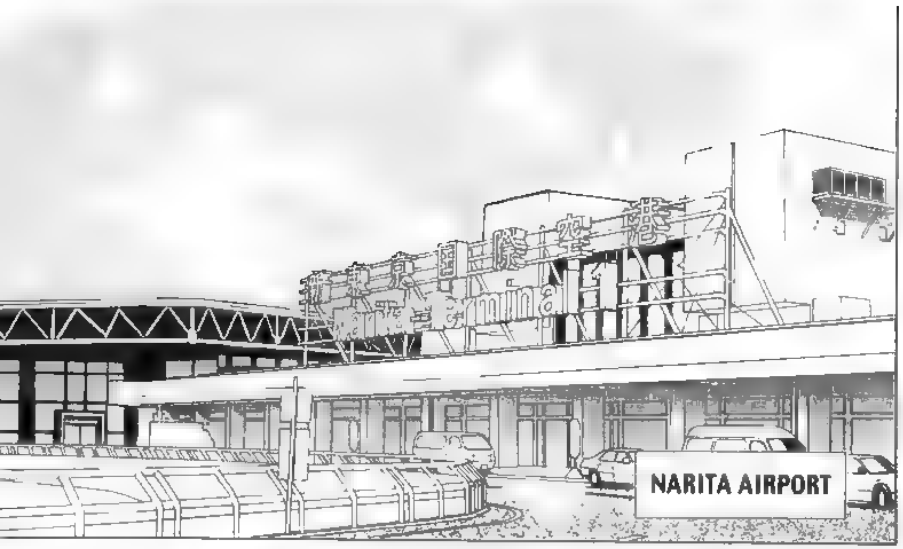
THE KOREA GAME IS ALMOST HERE...
THE NEW YEAR HAS COME.





STAGE.150

Landing in Korea


NARITA AIRPORT

PASSPORT
LET'S PRETEND HE'S A STRANGER.
WOW, I'M GETTIN' NERVOUS.
MAN! THIS PLACE IS MASSIVE!

WEAKLING! ARE YOU A MAN?
SCARED?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME ON AN AIR-PLANE.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE.
AREN'T YOU SCARED, TEPPEI?
STAGGER
I FINALLY MADE IT OVER-SEAS, HUH?

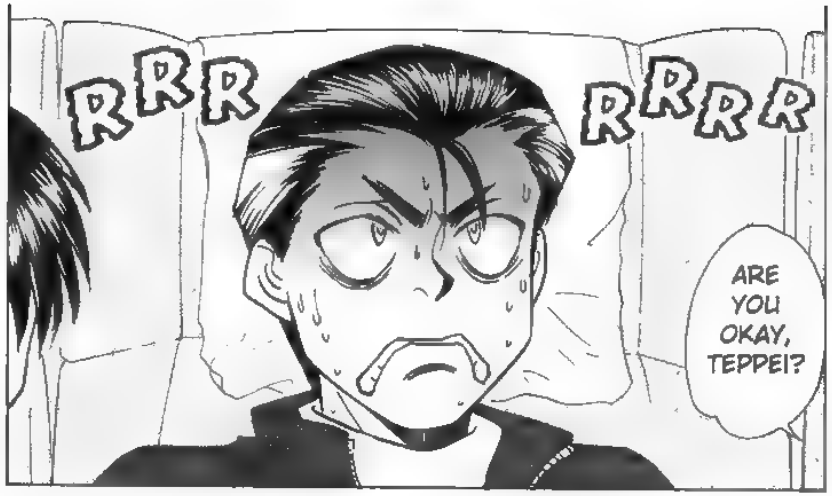
WHISTLE!™

WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO KOREA.

...I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.
WHEN I TRANS-FERRED TO JOSUI...

THEY MUST BE STRONG, NO DOUBT.
KLOK
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TEAM SEOUL SELECT IS.

PANTERA FUCHU WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND WAS PROMOTED TO J1. THE DISTANCE TO SUŌ HAS GROWN EVEN WIDER, BUT...
...I'M GOING TO CLOSE IN ON HIM, ONE STEP AT A TIME.


RRR
RRRRR
ARE YOU OKAY, TEPPEI?

WELL, ONCE WE GOT ON, IT TURNED OUT IT WASN'T AS SCARY AS I THOUGHT.
FREAK! WHY ARE YOU SO CALM?

NO! DON'T TOUCH IT!
YOU CAN UNBUCKLE THE SEAT-BELT NOW, YOU KNOW.

TEPPEI, THE FOOD LOOKS YUMMY.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT...
IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES, THE AIRPLANE WILL CRASH.
DON'T FREAK ME OUT! IDIOT!

OH ...
THEY DON'T HAVE EARTH-QUAKES, SO THEY WON'T FALL.

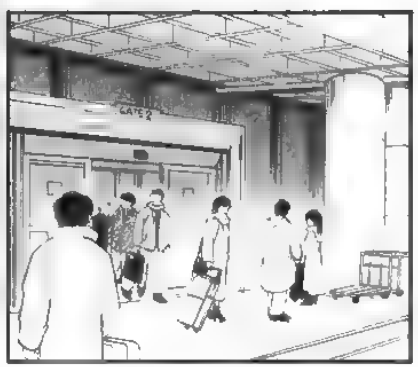
INCREDIBLE! SKYSCRAPERS ARE SHOOTING UP EVERY-WHERE.
SEOUL ?!
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY MIGHT FALL LIKE DOMINOES.

YOU'VE BEEN TO KOREA BEFORE?
EISHI ..
WHY DON'T YOU BUCKLE UP? WE'LL BE LANDING SOON.

Gimpo International Airport
SKY
Korea
Gimpo International
Airport

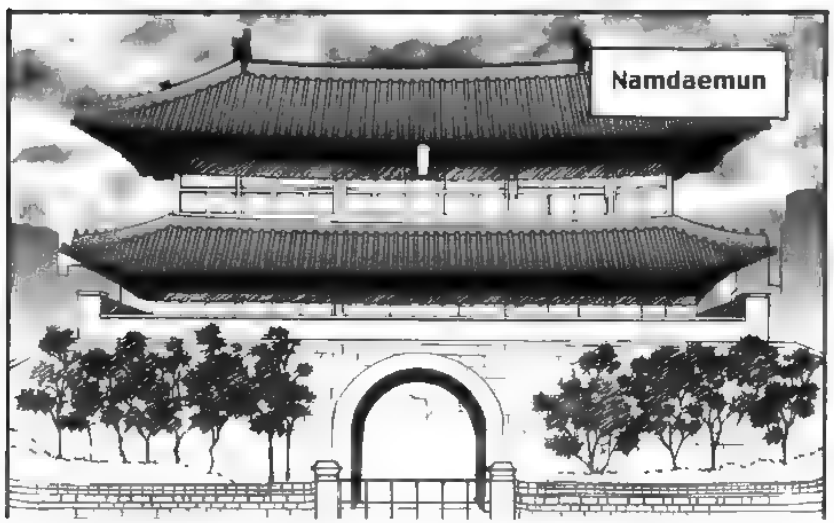
CHATTER
CHATTER
Cosmowin

welcome


GATE 2

Gyeongbokgung

Seoul Station


Namdaemun

... SEOUL.
WEL-COME TO...
Tokyo Select Party
ARE YOU THE TOKYO SELECT PARTY?
YES.
I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR THREE DAYS.
I AM TAE-SUP KIM. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
THE GAME IS TOMORROW AFTERNOON, AND PRACTICE IS IN THE MORNING.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TODAY, SO AS WE HEAD TOWARD THE HOTEL, WE'LL HAVE A QUICK TOUR OF SEOUL.
BIG ROADS. HOW MANY LANES ARE THERE?
THE BILLBOARDS ARE ALL WRITTEN IN HANGUL LETTERS.
THERE'S NO ENGLISH, EVEN.
IT SURE FEELS LIKE WE'RE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

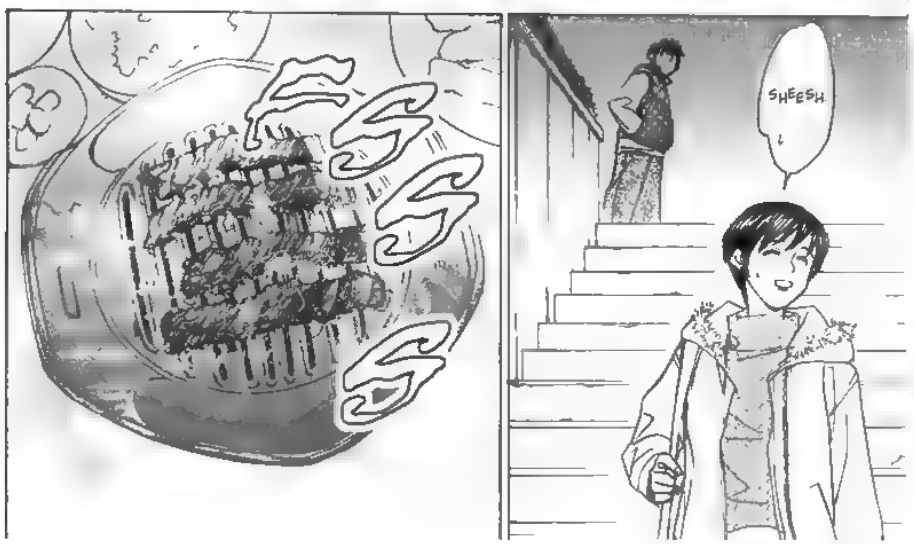
LET'S EAT!
LOOKS DELICIOUS! ♡

PUT THE MEAT ON A PIECE OF LETTUCE.
NO, NO. THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO EAT.

THANK ...
... YOU.
Loop
CHIJUN PA AND GARLIC.
GOCHU-JANG.

Tami-Jun
WE'LL HAVE DINNER HERE.
SKREEK

KOREAN BARBEQUE!


SHEESH

TAKASHI, DON'T.
THERE'S PLENTY OF MEAT, YOU KNOW. IT'S EMBARRASSING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, JERK?!

LOOKS LIKE YOU AREN'T THAT GREAT, THOUGH.
YOU'RE BIG. ARE YOU A FORWARD? OR A DEFENDER?
IT WAS STOLEN AWAY BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SLOW.
OUCH.
SHUT UP.

MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
YUN-GYEONG!
I AM...
ME?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

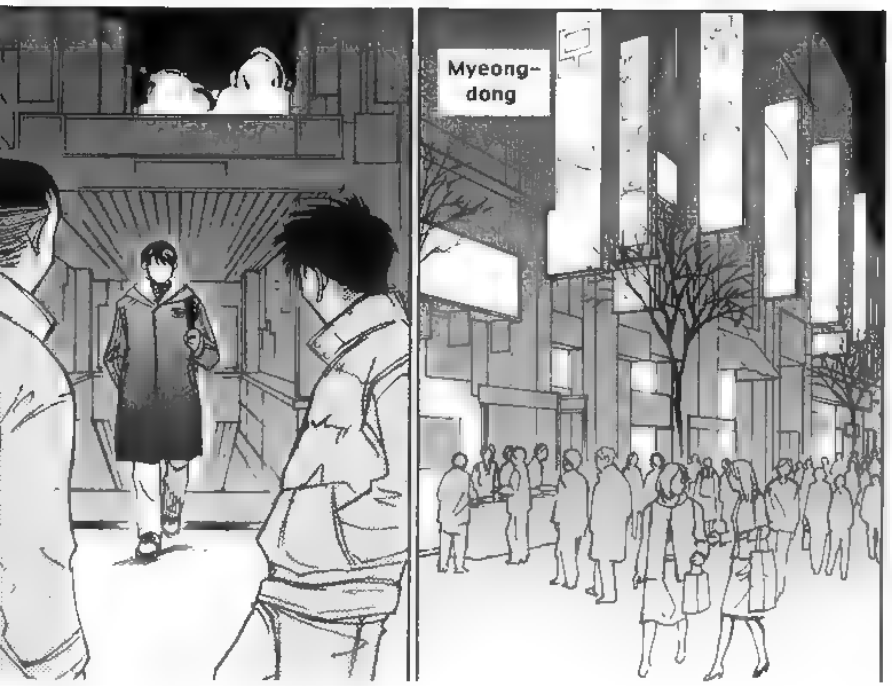
GLOMP

HMMM. THE MEAT'S ALL RIGHT, BUT THE FLAVOR ISN'T QUITE THERE YET...
...I SAY.
MUNCH MUNCH

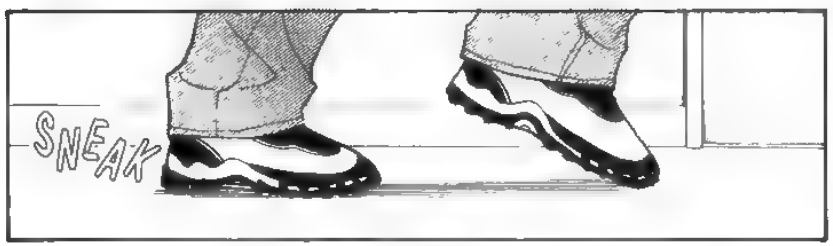
I'M YUN-GYEONG. HOW DO YOU DO...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMORROW'S GAME.
HE'S MY COUSIN FROM MY MOTHER'S SIDE.
HE IS A MIDFIELDER FOR SEOUL SELECT. WE'LL BE PLAYING AGAINST HIM TOMORROW.
MAYBE BECAUSE HE SPEAKS FLUENT JAPANESE, HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A KOREAN TO ME.
HE ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM US.
WHAT DID HE COME HERE FOR? TO CHECK US OUT?
IT'S BECAUSE I LIVED IN JAPAN FOR TWO YEARS.
COUSIN, HUH? YOU DO LOOK ALIKE.
YOU SPEAK JAPANESE WELL.
<YEONG-SA.>
MYEONG-DONG SHOPPING CENTER.
WHAT STUFF?
EIGHT O'CLOCK TONIGHT IN FRONT OF MIGLIORE AT MYEONG-DONG.
MAKE SURE YOU BRING THE STUFF.

SOME-ONE YOU KNOW, EISHI?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YOUR HAIR'S GOTTEN SHORT
WHAT? YUN?
YEONG-SA!
SMILE
LONG TIME NO SEE! IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE...
KAZUMA AND YŪTO, TOO.
COACH, I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS...
EISHI?
LET ME INTRO-DUCE HIM.

THIS ISN'T A GOOD IDEA, TSUBASA!
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ...
...ABOUT WHY EISHI SNEAKED OUT?
AS HIS TEAMMATE, I CAN'T LET THIS GO.
I TELL YOU, SOMETHING'S UP
IT SURE ISN'T LIKE HIM, BUT...
WHAT'S INSIDE THAT BAG?

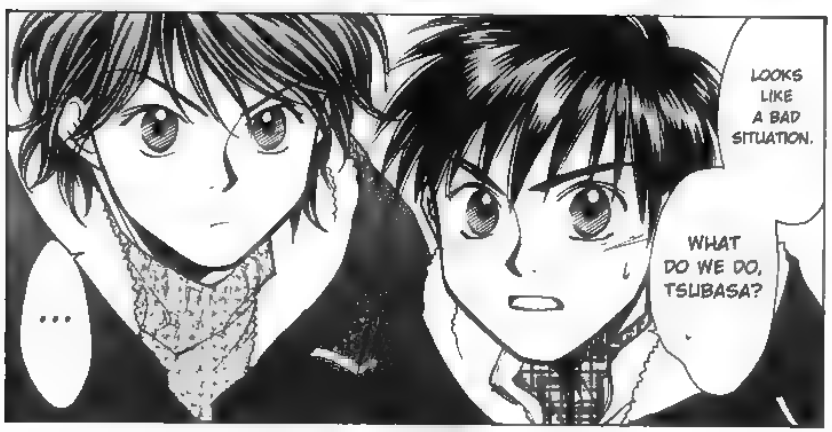

Myeong-dong

LOTTE CENTER
Hotel Lotte


SNEAK

VOOSH
JUST TO.. A CONVENIENCE STORE.
VOOSH
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO GO OUT AT NIGHT
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JOLT

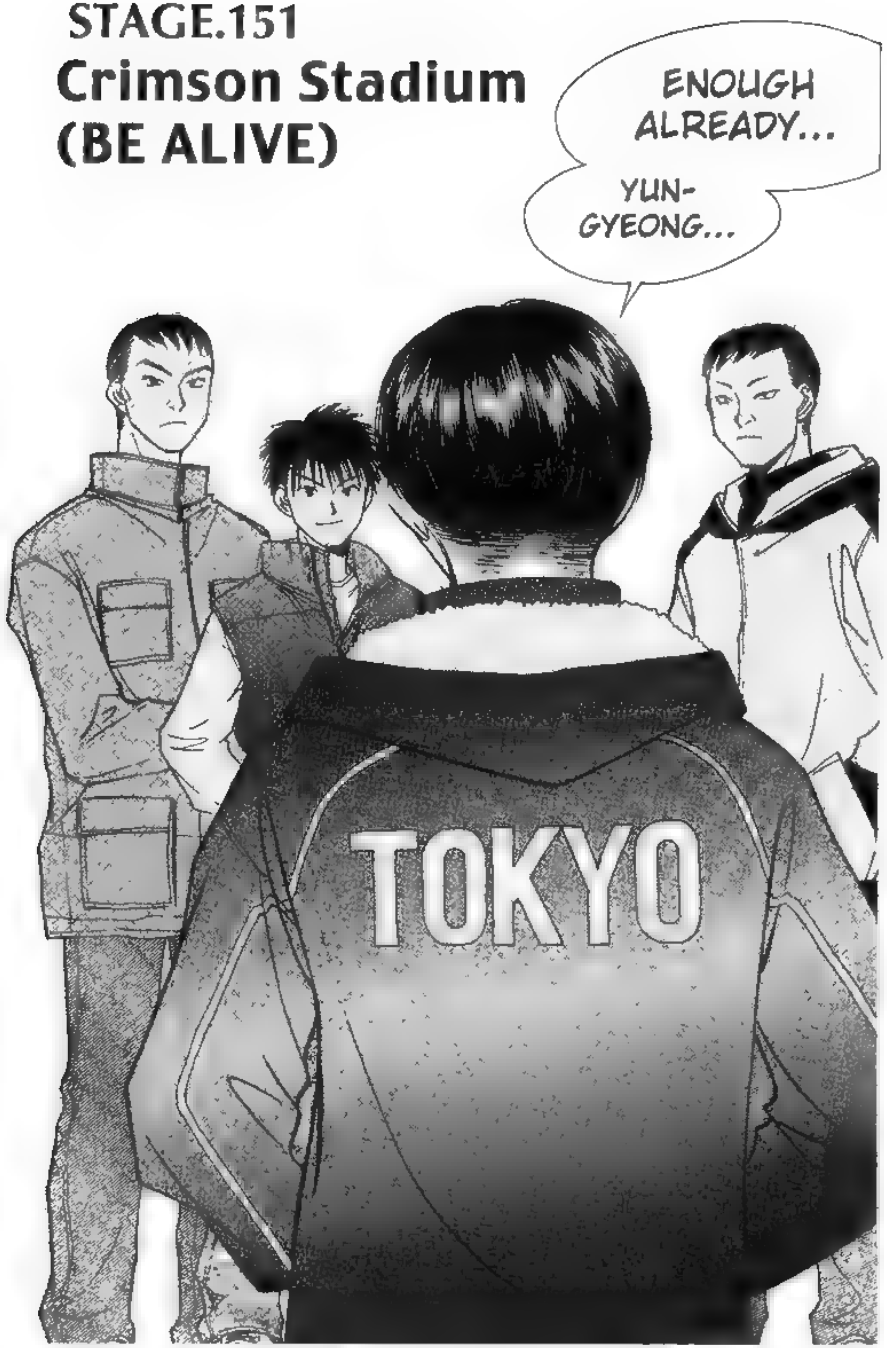
ENOUGH ALREADY...
YUN-GYEONG...


LOOKS LIKE A BAD SITUATION.
WHAT DO WE DO, TSUBASA?
...

DID YOU BRING THE STUFF?

STAGE.151

Crimson Stadium (BE ALIVE)



WHISTLE!

I'M SORRY. I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT, MASAKI?

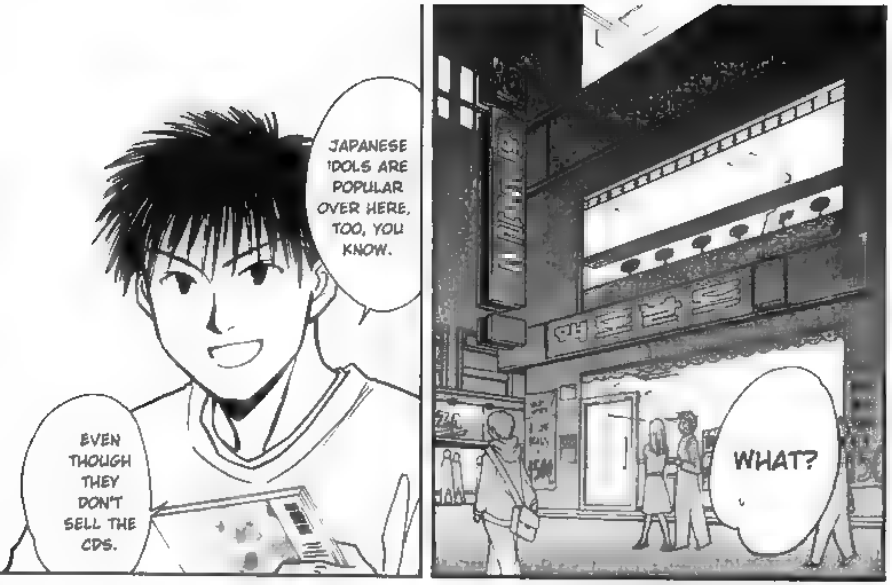
IDIOT.
HM?
HELP! TSU-BASA!
TOKYO

H... HELLO.

IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT, TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR COUSIN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?
DON'T BE ANGRY.

JUST DON'T KEEP MAKING ME DO EMBARRASSING THINGS.
I BROUGHT IT, DIDN'T I?

HMMM.
IT LOOKS LIKE KIND OF A DANGEROUS SITUATION, TSUBASA
TAP TAP



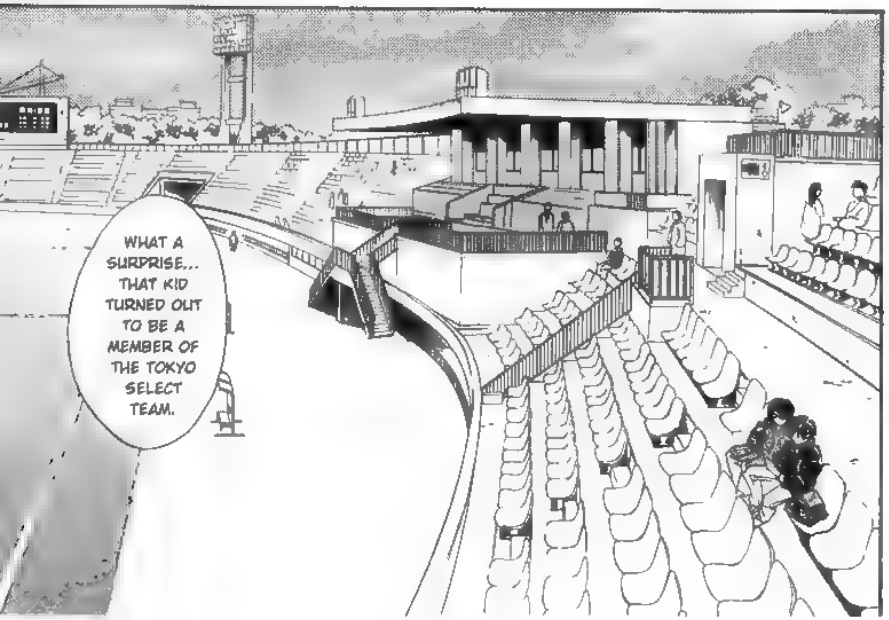
<YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE THIS, YOU TWO.>
><WOW, AN OFFICIAL COPY!?
><I LOVE HIRO-CHAN!>
><THANKS, YEONG-SA!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "BAN"?
BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T LIFTED THE BAN.
OOPS, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YUN-GYEONG, YOU HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOUR TWO FRIENDS YET.
THIS IS DO-HAN KIM. HE'S A DEFENDER.
THIS IS IN-HUN CHOI. HE'S A FORWARD.

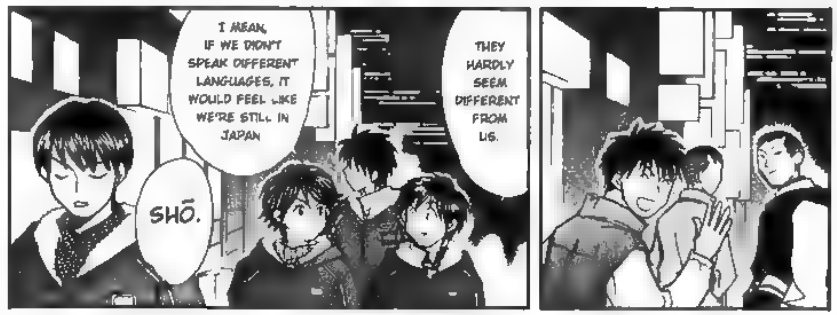
<DO-HAN, HE SAYS HE'S ALSO A DEFENDER.>
BUT AS FAR AS POWER GOES, YOU SEEM INCREDIBLE.
ARE YOU A SWEEPER? ME, TOO.
SINCE YOU'RE WITH THE SELECT TEAM, DESPITE YOUR SMALL FRAME, YOU MUST BE FORMIDABLE, THEY SAID.
<DON'T TELL ME THE OTHER TEENY WEENY IS ALSO A DEFENDER.>
<REALLY? EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO TEENY?!>
WHAT A SURPRISE.
OH NO, I'M JUST A RESERVE.
YOU GUYS LOOK FORMID-ABLE.
LIAR. THEY DEFINITELY TALKED ABOUT MY SIZE!
YOU JERKS! JUST WAIT FOR THE GAME.

THEY'RE CALLING THIS GAME A "FRIENDLY." DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT.
THIS PLACE MIGHT LOOK LIKE JAPAN, BUT IT ISN'T JAPAN.

동경 VS 서울
Stadium


WHAT A SURPRISE... THAT KID TURNED OUT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE TOKYO SELECT TEAM.

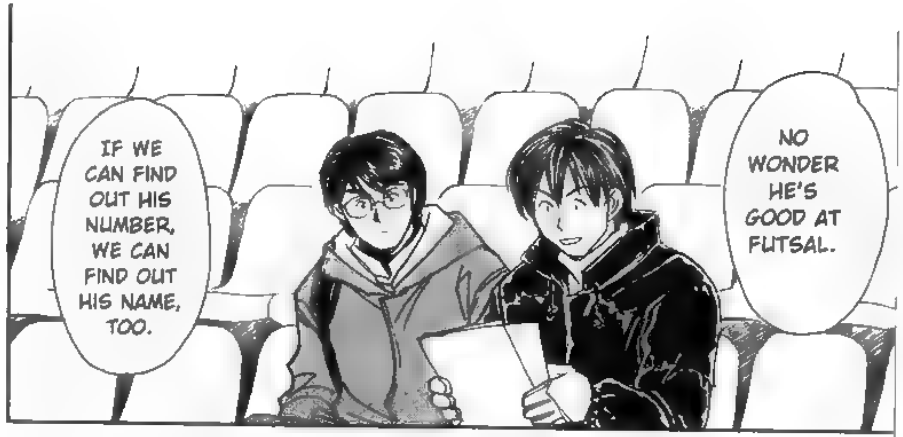
IS THIS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOCCER? IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S HERE ON A TOUR.
WHAT ARE THE ODDS...
WE'RE VISITING KOREA FOR AN ARTICLE ...
...AND WE BUMP INTO THAT JUNIOR HIGH KID WE SAW PLAYING FUTSAL.

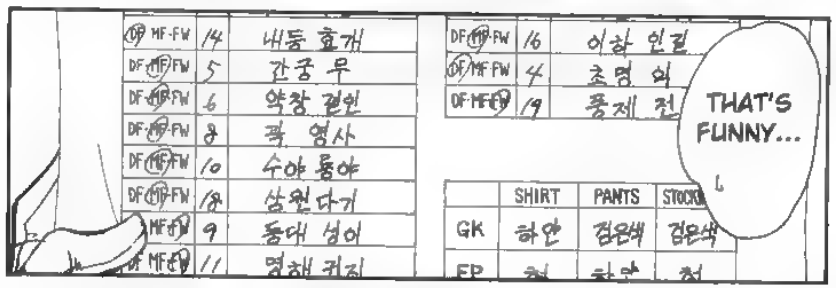

SHŌ.
I MEAN, IF WE DON'T SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, IT WOULD FEEL LIKE WE'RE STILL IN JAPAN
THEY HARDLY SEEM DIFFERENT FROM US.

PEOPLE HERE TAKE PRIDE IN THAT.
THAT'S WHY THEY SAY "WE'LL NEVER LET THE JAPANESE BEAT US AT SOCCER."
...THIS COUNTRY WAS A COLONY OF JAPAN.
IT WAS NOT SO LONG AGO WHEN ...
DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU WHY THEY DON'T SELL JAPANESE CDs IN KOREA?

WOW. THEY'RE ALL GIANTS.

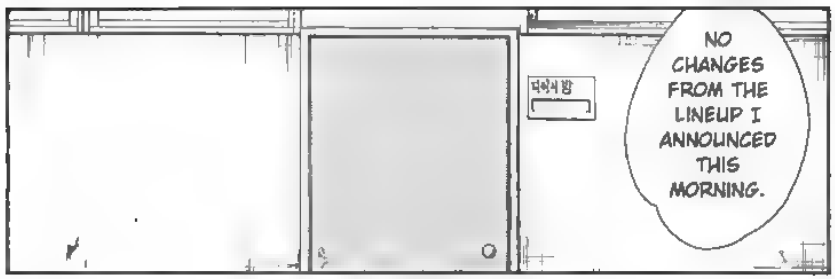
LUNGE
FOOM
POWER TO BURN ...
THEY LOOK STRONG.
SHORT, TRIMMED-UP HAIR.


IF WE CAN FIND OUT HIS NUMBER, WE CAN FIND OUT HIS NAME, TOO.
NO WONDER HE'S GOOD AT FUTSAL.


THAT'S FUNNY...
SHIRT
PANTS
GK

THERE, THEY'RE COMING OUT.
SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE WE'RE THE VISITORS.
THE SEOUL SELECT TEAM.

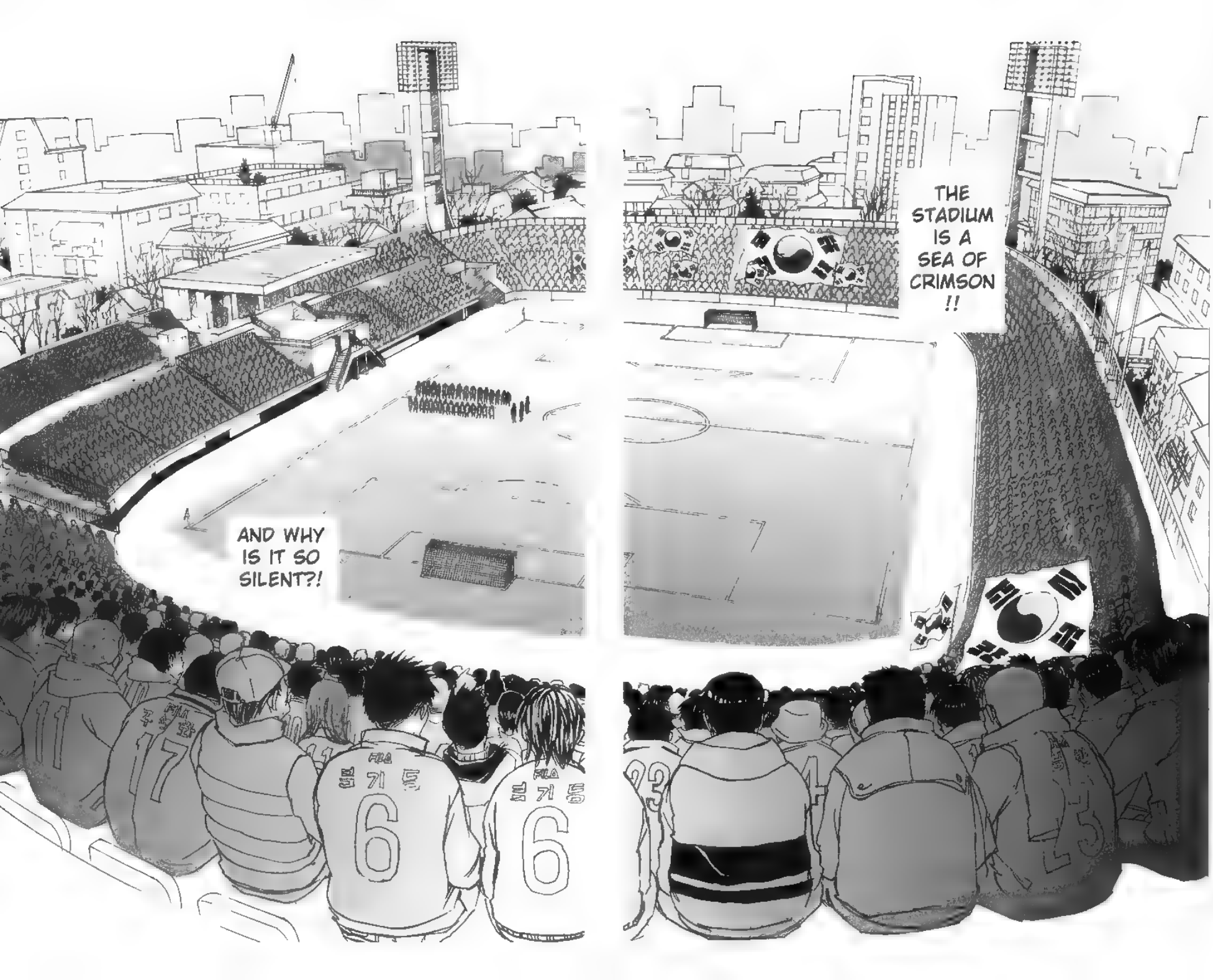
...DO NOT FORGET THIS IS AN AWAY GAME.
NO ONE WILL ROOT FOR US HERE.
HOW-EVER, I BELIEVE YOU GUYS CAN DO IT.
PUSHING SUCH PRESSURE ASIDE...
...AND PLAYING YOUR BEST IS TOUGH.


NO CHANGES FROM THE LINEUP I ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING.

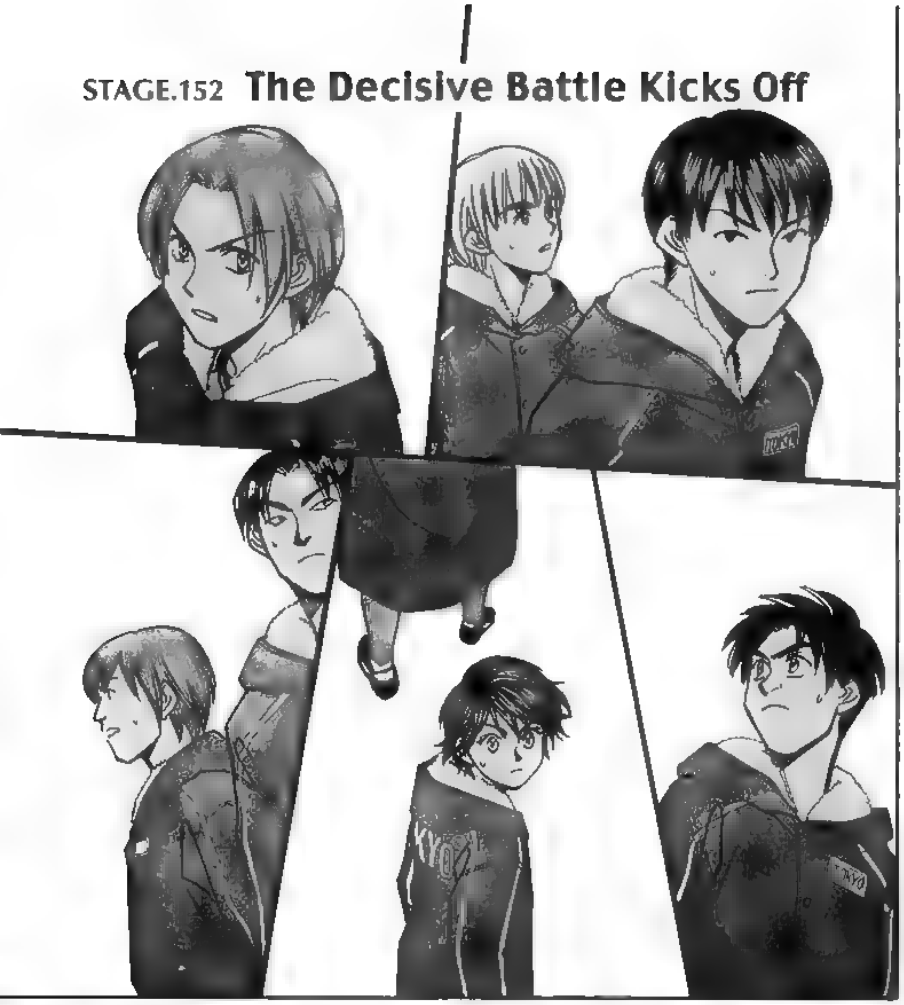
WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THE LINEUP...
WHETHER YOU ARE A REGULAR OR A RESERVE ...
THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL GAME FOR THE TEAM.

I HOPE YOU LEARN SOMETHING FROM THIS GAME.
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
OH!
LET'S TALK TO EACH OTHER OUT THERE!
FIGHT!
LET'S DO IT!

TOKYO


AND WHY IS IT SO SILENT?!
THE STADIUM IS A SEA OF CRIMSON !!

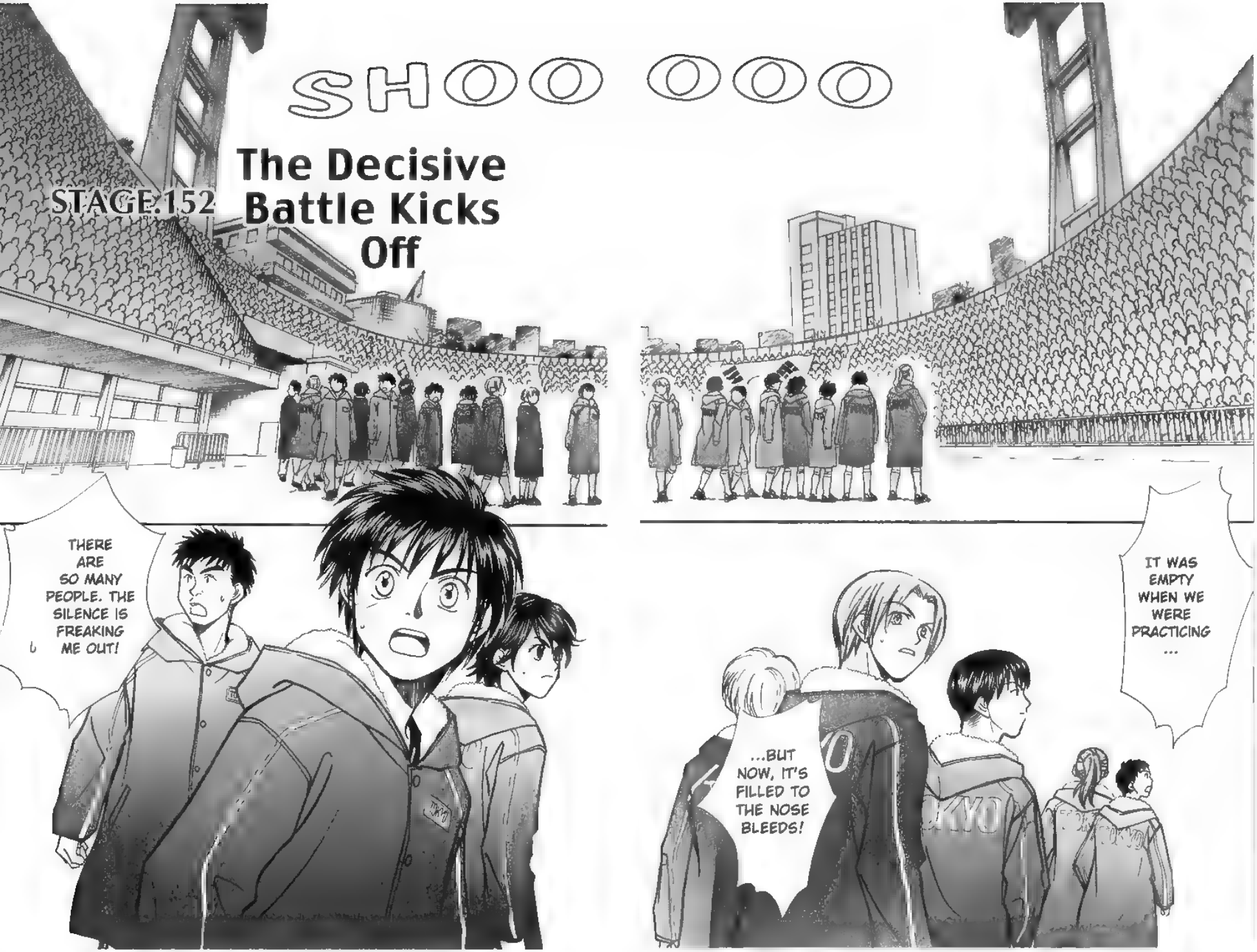
STAGE.152 The Decisive Battle Kicks Off



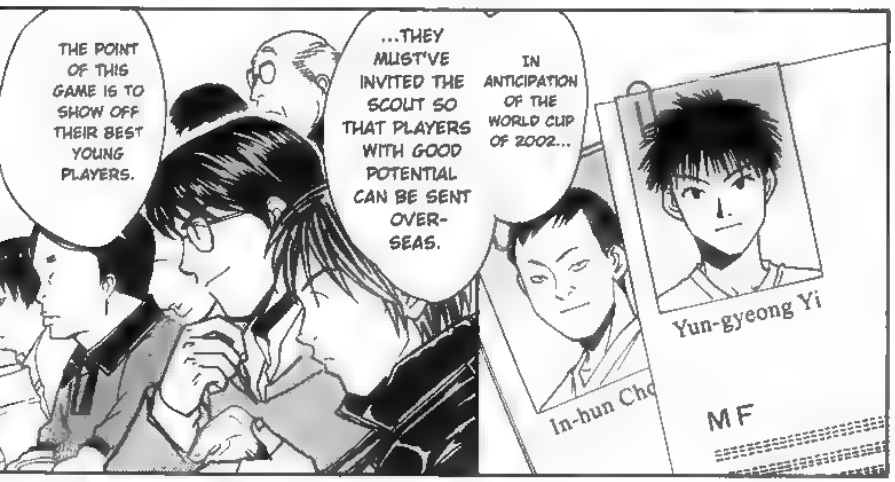
WHISTLE!

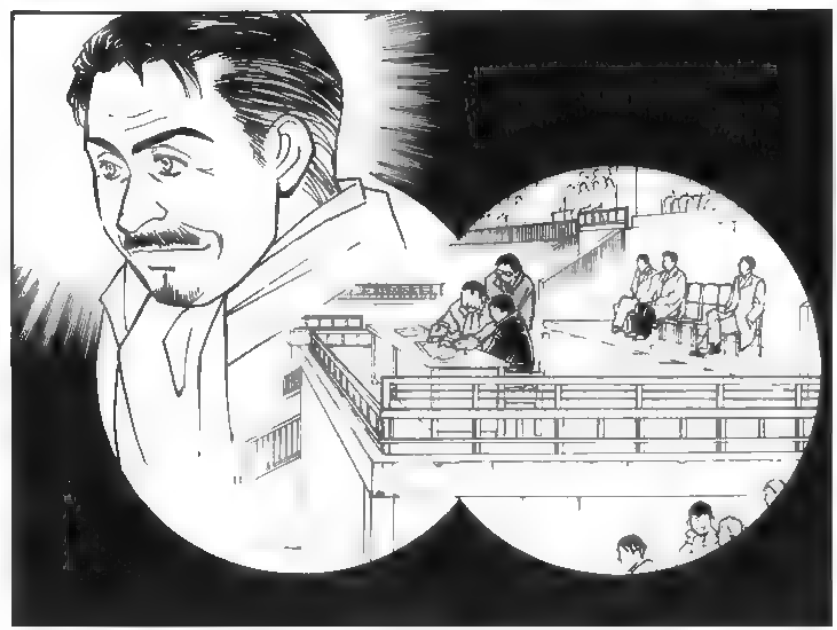
SHOO 000

STAGE.152 The Decisive Battle Kicks Off

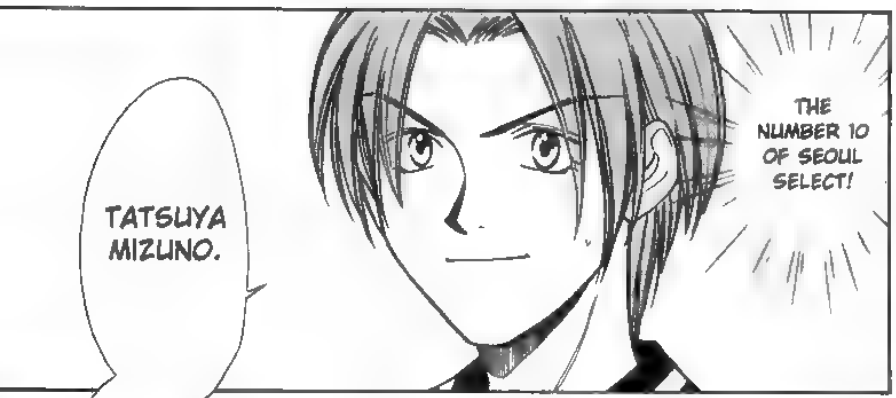

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE. THE SILENCE IS FREAKING ME OUT!
...BUT NOW, IT'S FILLED TO THE NOSE BLEEDS!
IT WAS EMPTY WHEN WE WERE PRACTICING ...

* A PRO CLUB TEAM'S NAME.


THE POINT OF THIS GAME IS TO SHOW OFF THEIR BEST YOUNG PLAYERS.
...THEY MUST'VE INVITED THE SCOUT SO THAT PLAYERS WITH GOOD POTENTIAL CAN BE SENT OVER-SEAS.
IN ANTICIPATION OF THE WORLD CUP OF 2002...
Yun-gyeong Yi
MF



I AM YUN-GYEONG YI. I'M THE NUMBER 10 OF SEOUL SELECT.
YOU ARE THE NUMBER 10 FOR TOKYO SELECT?

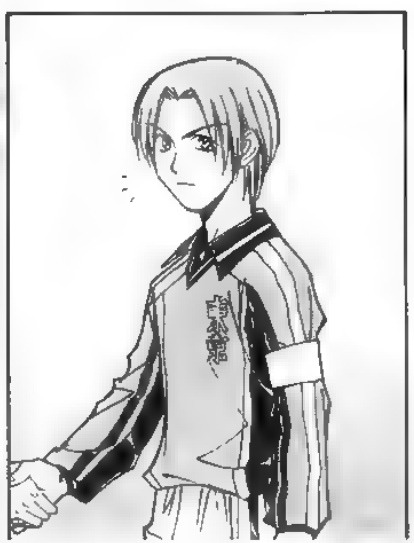

TATSUYA MIZUNO.
THE NUMBER 10 OF SEOUL SELECT!

PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
HE'S EISHI'S COUSIN. HE MUST BE A PRETTY GOOD PLAYER.
GRIP

HE'S OUR NUMBER 10.

SO YOU AREN'T NUMBER 10, YEONG-SA?

HMPH.



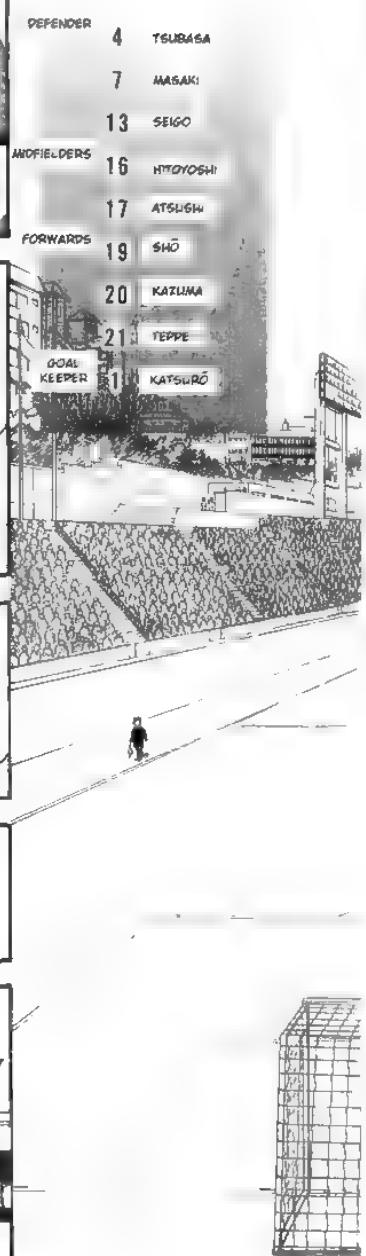
WE'VE COME HERE TO WIN. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK EMPTY-HANDED.
AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT ...
COACH.
AKIRA !!
SOME THINGS CAN BE LEARNED ONLY IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE.
WHEN THE OPPONENTS ARE GETTING TIRED IN THE SECOND HALF, WE'LL GO FOR IT. WE'LL KEEP OUR BEST WEAPONS IN RESERVE, AND WAIT FOR OUR CHANCE.
...AGAINST PLAYERS THAT SIZE ...
...WE'LL USE POWER AGAINST POWER. WE'LL HAVE KEISUKE AND THE OTHERS TO HOLD OUT IN THE FIRST HALF.
...DO YOUR BEST, EVERY-ONE.
GET READY FOR A FIERCE OPPONENT, AND...
I'M ALSO WAITING FOR MY CHANCE.
TO

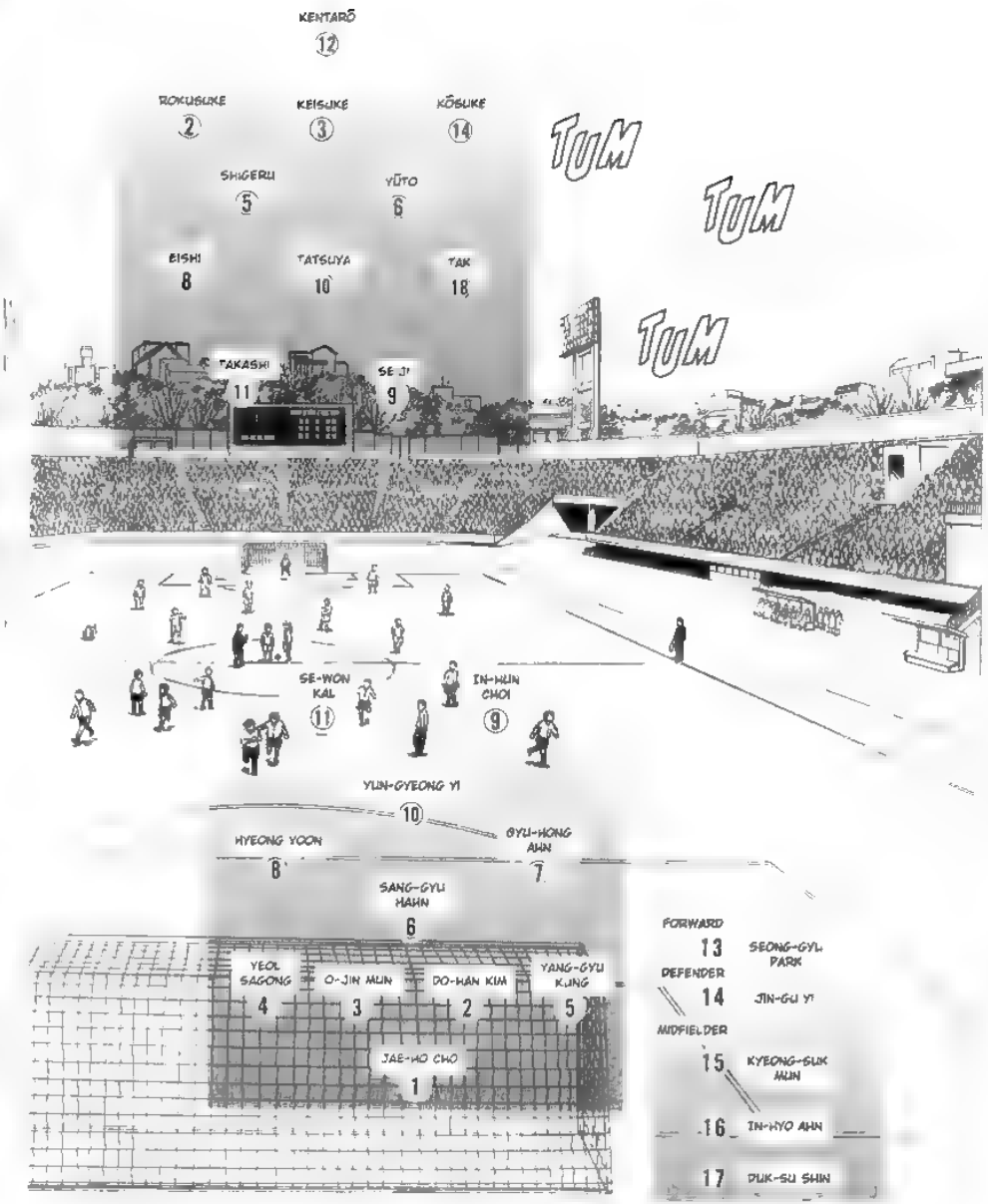
GLARE
AKIRA ...
IT'S "COACH," REMEMBER?
AND I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED!
AS FAR AS YOUR BUILD GOES, YOU'RE ALREADY BEATEN.
COACH! DO YOU THINK I'LL BE BEATEN BY THE OPPOSING FORWARDS?
I'M NOT THAT SOFT.
IF YOU KEEP MAKING THAT FACE, IT MAY NOT CHANGE BACK TO THE ORIGINAL.

IT'S BETTER THAN THE SILENCE, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ROOTING FOR OUR ENEMY.
THEY'RE COMING ALIVE.

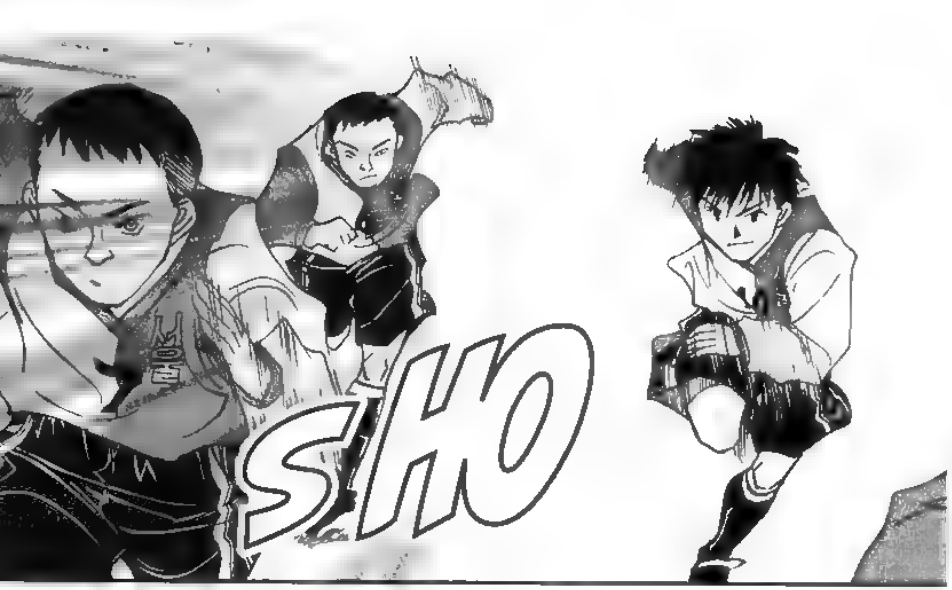
IT'S STARTING.

TWEEE
BOOM


DEFENDER
4 TSUBASA
7 MASAKI
13 SEIGO
MIDFIELDERS
16 HITOYOSHI
17 ATSUSHI
FORWARDS
19 SHŌ
20 KAZUMA
21 TEPPEI
GOAL KEEPER
1 KATSURŌ

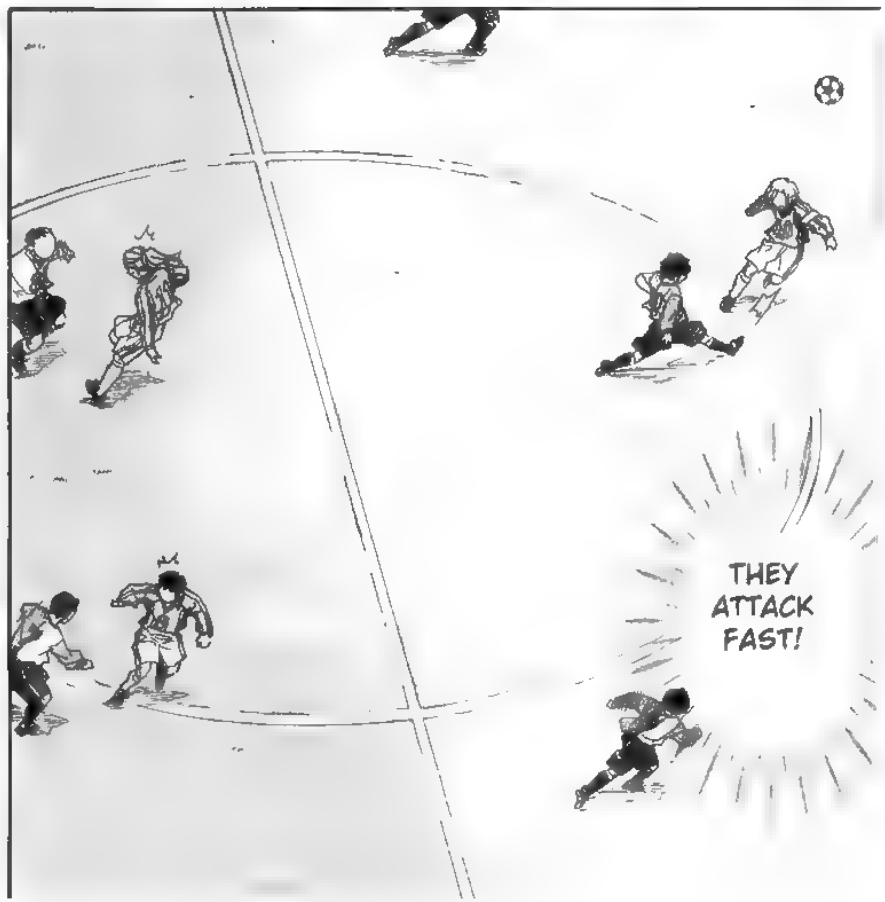

KENTARŌ 12
ROKUSUKE 2
KEISUKE 3
KŌSUKE 14
SHIGERU 5
YŪTO 6
EISHI 8
TATSUYA 10
TAK 18
TAKASHI 11
SE-JI 9
TUM
TUM
TUM
SE-WON KAL 11
IN-HUN CHOI 9
YUN-GYEONG YI 10
HYEONG YOON 8
GYU-HONG AHN 7
SANG-GYU HAHN 6
YEOL SAGONG 4
O-JIN MUN 3
DO-HAN KIM 2
YANG-GYU KJNG 5
JAE-HO CHO 1

FORWARD
13 SEONG-GYU PARK
DEFENDER
14 JIN-GU YI
MIDFIELDER
15 KYEONG-GUK MUN
16 IN-HYO AHN
17 DUK-SU SHIN


SHO

OOM

I CAN'T GET IT TO THE FORWARDS!
THEY CLOSE UP ON ME SO FAST, I CAN'T PASS TO THE FRONT!


THEY ATTACK FAST!

SLAM!
WHOA!
FWACK

YŪTO!
ON THE SIDE!

LOOK OUT!
UGH!
FU
3
3

VOOSH
9

17 BE ALIVE (The End)

I'm Sorry, Everyone in Seoul.

HUSTLE!

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ASSISTANT F. JAGUAR

To Play for the Motherland...

TO TELL THE TRUTH...
SO RYOICHI HAS GERMAN BLOOD IN HIM, HUH?
ANYWAY, IN THIS WEEK'S "HIKARU NO GO"...
...I HAVE ITALIAN BLOOD IN ME...
MAN, HE'S LOUD.
ER... YEAH, YEAH.
WHAT THE...?! LISTEN!
THE ONE GULLIBLE GUY.
ZING
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HIS HAIR IS LIGHT AND HE'S WELL-BUILT...

HUSTLE!

PRODUCED BY:
ASSISTANT F. JAGUAR

Glorious Uniform Number

Kindness Comes from a Genuine Heart.

Say My Name.

HUSTLE!

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Next in Whistle!

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The members of the Tokyo Select Team must find out what they are made of as they prepare to take on the Seoul Select Team. Tatsuya is feeling depressed at seeing how much Shô has improved in recent months, while he himself has not. And when Katsurô goes down with a knee injury, Kentarô is thrust into the role of starting goalkeeper. Will the team find the courage to meet the challenge ahead?

volume 17

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